

2008 Lobster Effort Questionnaire Comments

Question 1- Based on your fishing experience, do you feel the lobster resource is:

a. Increasing

b. Decreasing

c. Stable

d. No Opinion

Count	Question 1 Comments
1	Stable, even to the point of a slight increase.
2	Except for dredgers
3	Decreasing right now.
4	Getting back to more normal.
5	Hopefully, we just don't know.
6	Stable in Casco Bay region
7	Decreasing, no doubt about it.
8	The resource is decreasing, but from off the scale abundance. This should not reflect a crash in the resource.
9	Don't know for sure what the population is. Does anyone?
10	Decreasing in my area
11	Decreasing for sure
12	The resource is decreasing from an all time high. Fishing is much better now than it was 25 years ago.
13	Stable, based on yearly catch
14	Over fished
15	Below 5 years average, well above the 25 year average
16	Where I fish
17	More traps each year, more people getting into business
18	Stable and healthy.
19	Inshore waters and bays, too many traps.
20	A lot of short lobsters this spring, just under the measure.
21	In the area I fish, seems to be stable.
22	Unsure, not sure. Anybody knows (illegible).
23	Too many new fishermen
24	It is split differently now than it used to be.
25	In different areas
26	I feel it's a cyclic fishery.
27	It changes every year where the bulk of the lobsters are and how many there are so why do you guys get so worried and have to make new laws.
28	Juvenile population increasing.
29	We experience natural ups and downs with lobsters.
30	It should be one captain to one boat, instead of 2 or 3 boats with one captain. Do not issue any more 5 trap licenses because they keep everything they catch.
31	Did not fish enough last year to give an opinion
32	From year before, it will be 2 more hard years.
33	Ups and downs, according to mother nature, as always.
34	It varies from year to year. No 2 years are the same.
35	All resources are decreasing.
36	The lobster resource is going to fluctuate no matter what. Just because landings are down, doesn't mean the resource is not stable.
37	Only the legal ones. We catch them all up where as before, some of them made it to next year.

38	Because of the number of traps in the water.
39	Based on my fishing experience, the lobster resource is very stable. I have been fishing full time since I graduated in 2000 and haven't gone backwards yet. I feel that anyone that says it is decreasing either doesn't want to have to work as hard for their catch or just listens to the nay-sayers that tell them that it is.
40	I believe cycles of higher and lower catch to be normal. However, the resource has decreased.
41	Although stable, it may not be commercially sustainable with further effort increases.
42	For inside the exemption area.
43	Cyclic over time.
44	Normal cycle
45	Nobody knows. Ventless traps set (illegible) of up coming catch.
46	Lobsters are on a natural curve up peak decline.
47	Decreasing, because of unlimited entry in my zone
48	I believe if the small lobsters are never kept, there will always be big lobsters to catch.
49	Decreasing in some areas, stable in other
50	Decreasing, cycle on the way down
51	Look at history of the resource
52	Somewhat stable, the problem is more of a human one
53	I believe that the lobster resource is increasing but more people are making use of their lobster licenses and the maximum number of tags whereas they used to use a lower number of traps.
54	Poorly framed question. Without a specific timeframe, responses are meaningless.

Question 2 - How concerned are you that the cost associated with the amended Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) could impact how you fish?

	a. Very Much	b. Somewhat	c. Not Much	d. No Opinion	
Count	Question 2 Comments				
1	I fish inshore only.				
2	Somewhat, if we can't fish toggles and/or float rope on end lines				
3	For Zone G, this is a one-time expense. These other problems will last forever.				
4	I fish inside only.				
5	I think it is a shame for all the fishermen to change all the float rope at a great expense. I think they would try to put every fisherman out of business to save one whale.				
6	Will put lots of fishermen out of business.				
7	Everything is cost. I have fished for 40 years and I don't remember ever seeing a right whale. I have seen whales. I think this will hurt because we will lose a lot of traps and gear where we fish.				
8	Too much				
9	The float rope ban that is scheduled to go into effect in October 2008 will have a estimated cost to me of \$5,000 - \$8,000 to start, plus an annual additional cost of \$3,000 - \$4,000. This is a very substantial expense that will have little or no effect on whales. This whole idea is based on the likely false, or at least unproven premise, that Maine fishermen kill whales. Where most of us fish, there are no whales. Pictures of dead whales that I have seen that have had rope on them usually have heavier rope than most of us use to fish traps. Some may have become entangled after death as they drifted. If there is going to be an exemption line, it shouldn't be headland to headland along the coast. It should be further out, 3 miles, 12 miles, or ever further. Even a 50 fathom line would be outside of where many traps are fished and inside of most whale sightings. My hope, even now in the spring of 2008, is that some common sense may still come into effect before October. The financial interests of thousands of Maine businesses and families will be hurt by this regulation.				
10	Good way to reduce effort.				

11 Bait and fuel very costly

12 It won't hurt me but it will hurt my brothers because they fish offshore.

13 Very much and unnecessary.

14 This could put me out of business.

15 Death sentence

16 I feel the ALWTRP is trying to fix a problem that we do not have. The added expense is yet one more burden forced onto us.

17 The ALWTRP is not a one time expense. It will be every year for rope!

18 I think some of the offshore boats will move into the exempt areas, thereby furthering the over fishing, crowding, and gear conflicts.

19 I would not be in favor of reducing the amount of traps that one can fish until something is done about new licenses issued. In my opinion, cutting down the amount of traps that any established fisherman can fish is totally nonsense, until there is a freeze on licenses issued.

20 I have fished for 63 years and have never seen a whale snarled in lobster gear, but I have seen some large cuts on their backs from large vessels.

21 Huge impact

22 A question for offshore lobstermen

23 The initial cost of switching to sinking ground line is bad enough, but more importantly is the cost of constantly changing worn ground line and the cost of lost traps due to chaffed off or hung down ground line.

24 Public hearings should be held on the issue of factual ghost traps versus fictional whales (illegible) LPC will finally have an issue to justify their pickpocket existence, lobster recipes aside.

25 These measures could put people out of business with little to no benefit to the whales.

26 Cost too much for rope and not necessary where I fish.

27 I fish all sink rope singles.

28 It will be \$20,000 - \$24,000 up front for the first year and as much as \$10,000 annually

29 If the line stays where it is.

30 The whale item too over blown.

31 The area I fish is very hard bottom. I will not be able to comply without losing 50 to 70 percent of my gear a year.

32 Time as well as money is consumed. Make plan, stop changes!

33 I can afford to buy the rope, but I think there is no need to ban float rope all the way to the exemption line. It needs to be moved out to the 3 mile line or 50 fathom curve, where the whales are. I would like to see the trap limit stay the same, but if it is going to happen, it needs to be done right. Last time it didn't work, there are more traps in the water now than years when I fished 1,200 traps.

34 It doesn't impact how I fish my traps, however, I also work on the stern of a boat that fishes 800 traps in federal waters so the ALWTRP does very much impact me that way.

35 I believe with expenses up tens of thousands and lobster prices down each year over the last 3 years, the ALWTRP will put us out of business. A loan is impossible with no income.

36 I am very much concerned about the amount of money that this is going to cost. This winter, I am not going to be able to move everything outside and fish normally. Instead, I'll have to get as much N.B. rope as I can afford and stop moving when I run out of rope. The traps I do move offshore are probably going to chafe off anyways. So, I guess its probably a good thing that I won't be able to bring my traps with me.

37 Making rules without real information to justify those rules to benefit a whale versus a man does not make sense. Lobstermen are very cooperative. We can come up with smarter solutions than ALWTRP.

38 Besides the money, I spend all winter re-splicing my float rope to be 1/3 overall length and now that isn't going to be a rule.

39 The only new license holders in my area are the sons of fishermen.

40 I was able to read the "writing on the wall" back when the first threat to ban poly came about. I have been switching over since then (2002ish). I, however, can understand the money impact for some fishermen who have to do a 100% change over now.

41 Cost will be on going, not one time. Must buy new rope every 2 - 4 years versus 6 - 8 years for float.

42 Common sense would say there is not much sense in conserving inshore lobsters if oversize females remain legal outside to draggers.

43	Only fish singles
44	I am not as concerned with the price or cost of the amendment or what it will affect only that without floating ground line it is impossible to fish in most of Maine's waters.
45	Cost too much for rope and not necessary where I fish.

Question 3 - Could the supply or price of herring for bait impact your decisions on how to fish?

a. Very Much b. Somewhat c. Not Much d. No opinion

Count	Question 3 Comments
1	What about the cost of fuel?
2	Somewhat--trying to be more cost efficient.
3	I use hide bait and have for many years. No fish at all
4	I have to fish my traps regardless of the price.
5	Have to have a limit, you pay what you have to
6	Use other baits, fish, etc.
7	Moderate change if more extreme change
8	Also, the price of fuel and the inability of fishermen to set a price received that is fair and covers expenses.
9	That's an unknown. The government controls how much herring is caught, but yet they still allow pair trawling.
10	Again cost, used to pay .25 cents a pail
11	Price of herring has gone up 200% in 5 years. Lobsters are about the same price.
12	Not buying as much
13	Fuel is more of a concern.
14	The end
15	Poor question
16	How about fuel prices?
17	I have cut bait from 8 bushel a day to 5 sometimes 4, that's bottom line.
18	It's not just a bait issue, it's fuel also.
19	Using only half the bait this year because of the price.
20	Already switched to racks
21	How much did someone get paid to come up with this question?
22	Already does!
23	Fuel too!
24	The only way I can answer this question is as follows: Does the price of groceries effect the way you eat? No
25	Herring is the most important thing in lobstering. If we lose it, industry will be in big trouble. Must have some trawling in spring and summer.
26	The lobster population will always have ups and downs, but like I said, and I don't think it can be debated, if you let the little ones grow, there will always be lobsters to catch. Yes folks, it could really be that simple.
27	Only 100+ traps
28	We can use other fish racks, or animal renderings as bait.

Question 4 - How worried are you about the number of traps fished in your area?

a. Very Much b. Somewhat c. No Worries d. No opinion

Count	Question 4 Comments
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1	If we got rid of all wardens, people would have to go back to being gentlemen or lose their gear. No more crowding.
2	No bottom left unfished
3	Too many over fishing
4	Question 1 is the #1 problem.
5	When limits freeze, etc. everybody that could, went fishing
6	I am worried about the ones fishing 200 - 400 more than the 800 limit.
7	Almost everyone in my area buys and fishes the extra 10% or 80 traps.
8	They seem to increase
9	Current regulations are fine.
10	Too many fishermen, not too many traps.
11	300 traps is not enough for Monhegan. We need at least 400
12	Not traps, licenses
13	In federal waters, transient boats from over 30 miles away
14	I'm more concerned by the 2 boat potential and the other areas overfishing around my area. I feel this already has had a negative impact.
15	I don't feel that other fishermen should be able to fish 49% in another zone. You should only be able to fish your zone.
16	Very, very overfished.
17	Most big fishermen fish all tags, including replacement tags. This is illegal!
18	I fish in the gray zone. American traps are no problem, Canadian traps are
19	The worry is people will be driven inside the whale rule limit because fishing with no float rope outside if not feasible.
20	I am not so much worried about the amount of traps as much as I am worried about who is fishing them. I see a few guys on the water 12 months a year trying to feed their families and pay their bills. Then, when the weather is nice in May, the guys with nothing better to do come and take half of what the rest of us wait for all winter. If you get rid of the part time fishermen, the full time fishermen will be able to make money again. These are the ones who don't show landings, keep illegal lobsters, and don't care what happens because they already have a job.
21	Just because New Harbor guys are setting traps in our area.
22	I would like to see a restriction on each boat limiting the number of traps that could be placed in the bay.
23	800? 880? 1,200? Or more?
24	Tags should go with one zone. No gray areas.
25	Moderately
26	Outside boats are fishing closer to the beaches each year for shedders.
27	I fish Blue Hill Bay 2C. It has become crowded. I feel Zone C should be divided, Blue Hill and surrounding towns would like limited entry. Swan's Island, DI, Stonington could stay open. Let us close Blue Hill Bay 2C.
28	I'm more worried about traps in my area from other zones!
29	I don't feel that other fishermen should be able to fish 49% in another zone. You should only be able to fish in your zone.
30	Conservation, Zone B

Question 5 - Would you support reducing the number of traps in the water in your area?

a. Yes b. No c. No Opinion

Count	Question 5 Comments
1	Trick question. The only way to stop or slow the effort is to close the door to new entrants for 10 years. At which time, reopen the door and cap new entrants at 300 traps and cap all current license holders at 600. There is your conservation measure because the last trap limit was a failure, resulting in more traps in the water today than when the trap limit was not in effect.

- 2 Not until New Hampshire reduces their number of traps in the water, and state should go out 12 miles for state waters. Should check to see who's got their extra 80 tags. Who's fishing them?
- 3 Should not allow recreational fishermen. They save more lobsters than legal ones. These people are doctors, lawyers and people who could well afford to buy them. Lobster catchers don't invade their means of a living so why should they invade ours? This is the worst law passed!
- 4 Only if reduced traps means reducing fishermen!
- 5 Only by eliminating new entry
- 6 Would only favor the 800 trap fisherman and put the 300 and less virtually out of business. Only an idiot would consider that an option. A 500 trap limit would benefit the majority.
- 7 No more allowed.
- 8 Yes, but lower the number of fishermen first.
- 9 Yes, very much so
- 10 People are illegally fishing traps in my area. This problem should be addressed before more reductions are forced on the rest of us that obey the law. Our new warden seems to be trying to enforce these rules, but it's hard. Give them some time before imposing new reductions.
- 11 Yes, definitely.
- 12 Just recreational fishermen license
- 13 Yes, because our 4,000 out to 800 in will do that if given a chance, plus we are slowing down student entry.
- 14 I support letting those who want to work hard be and those who can't compete do something else.
- 15 Swan's Island has a low limit.
- 16 Yes, but not in my area
- 17 Not everyone, just part time fishermen.
- 18 I would support reducing the traps, but it will only get worse. There will be twice the boats and twice the traps.
- 19 More traps being baited, the more lobsters we'll have in the future. In other words, we (fishermen) are raising them.
- 20 More stress in some
- 21 In regards to question 5, I am not in favor of other fishermen buying boats and putting other fishermen in the business with 800 traps.
- 22 I have taken a 400 trap cut in the last 10 years.
- 23 I do not believe it should be allowed to fish 1,600 traps from January 1 to June 1. By fishing news tag and old tags, it is something that should be taken care of very soon.
- 24 The main problem is when the offshore boys bring all 800 of their traps inshore, that puts about 10,000 more traps in the 15 square miles I fish in. There are a dozen or more fishermen that do this only for a few weeks when fishing is at its best inshore. Then they go back offshore. I would support inside and outside fishing, do one or the other.
- 25 Not just in my area.
- 26 If reduction was done fairly and enforced
- 27 I support reducing the number of non full time traps.
- 28 Yes, if part timers reduced more.
- 29 Yes for the fishermen that have been out in the winter dragging, etc. The fishermen that are fishing 10% for their living, no.
- 30 The trap limit is fine, what we needed is the part where those who fish over the limit where the law has been told and done nothing!
- 31 600 - This should not be put off.
- 32 With some restrictions
- 33 This will take care of itself
- 34 Yes, but not without limited entry. Zone C is the only open zone, where else will the new entries go?
- 35 It's not the number of traps each person fishes that's the problem, it's the number of fishermen, period.
- 36 Leave it alone!
- 37 By elimination of licenses

38	Before reducing traps for the fishermen that are really fishing 800 traps, something has to be done about the fishermen that have more than one boat to fish extra traps. If that doesn't change, a limit would have no effect.
39	Not until DMR understands latent effort numbers are high on paper, only are trap counts too high
40	Possibly a small reduction, maximum 600 traps per person would be the furthest I would go. Although I feel our area is all right, I think the surrounding areas are way over crowded.
41	Scale fishermen back by years making a living fishing, not being a student or part timers. We got caught wanting to sell tags (illegible).
42	Everybody in Zone G should go to 600 traps.
43	Yes, if you control people trying to build fleets
44	Yes for the fishermen that have been out in the winter dragging and etc. The fishermen that are fishing 100% for their living.
45	Less people in.
46	We are supposed to be (illegible) by the number of replacement for retired licenses but other ways to get in have not reduced numbers.
47	Inshore I would support a reduction to 500 traps
48	When people have 3 boats and supply traps and can haul everyday, there is no way to down size as they have already essentially incorporated. Once again, too late to fix. Before rolling the ball and running from it, try to look ahead at any new rules and how they may be abused, because they will be!
49	Reducing the number of license holders
50	No, because I'm a full-time fisherman.
51	Already at 600
52	Could not afford the cost of living with less traps, especially with the lobster decline.
53	Only if other areas reduce as well.
54	Reduce the traps to part time fishermen. A lot of people in our zone only fish 8 months. They have other jobs. Make them reduce traps to 450. If they don't fish year round, why should they fish 800 traps, the same as me. They're part timers!
55	More of a maybe though.
56	Stop giving licenses.
57	No opinion. How can you do that? Trap limits are not the answer.
58	With fewer people getting a license.
59	Very much
60	I would support the reduction in traps, but I would hate to think you would cut then from the full time fishermen. Get rid of recreational licenses, student licenses, and part timers. Let the rest of us be. If you cut the fore mentioned traps, the rest of us could go to 1,000 traps a piece and it would still be a reduction.
61	For sure
62	Just New Harbor traps. They shouldn't have any traps in Zone D - 3.
63	Not just in my area.
64	My area being the Atlantic, we here on Swan's Island decreased our number of traps to 475 two decades ago.
65	We don't catch the lobsters that Southern Maine catches per trap. So we need to fish all we can to make up the difference. What I am saying is we do about lbs per trap on a week soak. Whereas, Southern Maine lbs per trap on a two-day soak. It also costs more to fish in Downeast Maine. You have to think about that. I would like someone to come up here, sit down with some of us here and talk about it first on how much it costs and the retune in my area.
66	All areas
67	Illegal traps - very much so Legal traps - no!
68	It would out some of us out of business.
69	We should put our trust in DMR Biologists and their Monhegan experiment as described in the May issue of Working Waterfront.
70	Yes, i.e. one "5 trapper" per family
71	Would support reducing the number of people and/or freezing new entry for people who have other jobs.
72	I would support the effort to keep Zone C lobstermen in there own zone.
73	We already did! I think every zone should have to reduce traps in the water!

74 Everybody in Zone G should go to 600 traps.

75 Yes, but not mine

Question 6 - Do you favor reducing traps proportionally (every lobsterman removes the same percentage of their traps)?

a. Yes, What percentage _____?

b. No

c. No opinion

Count	Question 6 Comments
1	Now fishermen must fish less than older fishermen.
2	I've already given up enough traps so all these new guys can have their 800
3	I am in favor of equal reductions. Many are now fishing 880 or more with no enforcement otherwise. There should be a limit of original issue tags (i.e. 650+/-) and if replacement tags are needed, they should be only issued through a warden. That way the warden knows who may be fishing more than the limit.
4	No, we made this mistake once--small got big real fast.
5	New guys paying the most
6	25 to 50%. Very complicated to enforce?
7	No. Obviously, this would hurt the guy with fewer traps.
8	Either/or but we must have a license freeze
9	Just do a trap limit and reduce a small amount (50) per year for 4 years.
10	This would reward those who have "upsized" their tag number to the maximum.
11	Trick question. Should be same percentage of "trap limit" in your area
12	We already have
13	In this area, Zone D.
14	Zone E has already done their reduction to 600.
15	10% each year, for 3 years
16	Percentage is unfair! I have only fished 400-500. I could have been 800! This is a conservation measure in itself. I should not be penalized disproportionately for already practicing conservation.
17	Penalizes conservative fishermen and rewards greed.
18	It will not work. The honest will get hurt.
19	Left the same
20	No, only the ones that came in the last 10 years.
21	Every fisherman drops to the same amount.
22	5% a year for 4 years
23	Yes, if we had to have a cut
24	If each luster fisherman cuts 20% of 800, he has 640 to fish. A fisherman that has cut his down already to 650 has 520 left. Cut down to 600 for class 1, 2, 3 commercial licenses.
25	Part timers must be limited!
26	Not all fishermen, the ones fishing for 100% of living should keep their traps the way they are. Do away with the 5 trap deal, destroying everything.
27	5% until 600
28	Do away with the replacement tags and you would get 100,000 traps out of the water
29	I cannot support a trap reduction for full timers when there are so many part timers who can still fish and maintain their other source of income. I feel any reductions should come from them first and let those of us who fish year round maintain our current numbers.
30	Don't know, make a compromise
31	Full time lobstermen should have the right to fish the limit. Part timers should remove the most traps.
32	I don't favor this at this time. It should have been done when the trap limit first went into effect.

33 The wardens would have a real hard time keeping up with the amount of traps each lobsterman fishes each year.

34 Leave it alone!

35 Some here are still fishing over 800, without more enforcement it will continue and a trap reduction would be ineffective for those few. Freezing of licenses will be ok now but what about in a few years?

36 No more licenses.

37 You can't go by a percent when fishermen buy more tags than traps they set.

38 Already gave up 500 traps so you could give it to someone else.

39 What about the small lobstermen?

40 Should have done that years ago

41 Where were you in 1995, I had 2.600.

42 Limit new licenses

43 I think this is the only fair way until you reach a sustainable limit, then possibly a build up time for other existing licenses as others get out.

44 Maine should have a statewide 600 trap limit.

45 Everybody across the board should be 600 traps.

46 Not all fishermen fish the limit.

47 We never had a problem until DMR put on trap limits

48 A one time thing for at least 7 years, the time it takes a lobster to mature.

49 People will be financially driven out of this industry because of high expenses. And unrealistic misguided laws.

50 The lobstermen that fish for 100% of their income should keep their traps the way they are and do away with the 5 trap deal. Destroying everything.

51 I think the number of licenses should be fixed and licenses held for a certain number of active years should be able to be sold. This enables older lobstermen to recover an investment and would get out those lobstermen who are hanging on to their license for what ever reason.

52 Zone E is already at 600

53 How could you reduce those that's fishing less than (500) and still make any kind of a living? What I would support more than anything else, is more enforcement personnel. Our marine officers are doing an outstanding job, but when you (illegible) is the (illegible) and the poachers taking scalars or the mutilation of the short lobsters, enforcement is short handed.

54 It would be unfair to those just starting and give an unfair advantage to the big boys.

55 No, because full-time fishermen already reduced, part timers did not.

56 Poorly worded question. If you answer the question, you are agreeing that there should be a trap reduction. With all the other money going out for bait and fuel and living expenses, there is no room for a trap reduction. Lobsters are about the only fishery left that has not been over regulated. Lobstermen, as a whole, already take very good care of our industry.

57 If reduction is necessary, everyone should remove the same amount.

58 10% per year for 4 years

59 Federal permit only

60 Regarding question #6. If a trap reduction has to occur, than it should be done as a percentage of gear so it is proportionally fair for everyone. A control date should be included with this option. Freezing licenses and tags is a more attractive option for me. This would allow the exit/entry ration (Zone D 5:1) to actually work.

61 No, but this is fair if it needs to happen

62 If you fish 200-300, you should not be required to reduce. If you're at 800, you could reduce a certain percentage, to say 600. Below that, you should be able to increase 100 per year to 600.

63 I suppose taking the short timers out of it, most are pirates anyway.

64 Yes. Withhold the same percentage of trap tags.

65 No reduction.

66 Fishermen not in their declared zone should be hit harder.

67 800 traps - 20% 500 traps - no reduction

68	I have 800 traps, everyone should be equal
69	I do not support this at all. This is a very vague question and it scares me.
70	If your license cost the same, you should be allowed to fish the limit.
71	This would not be fair for lobstermen that are now fishing 400 traps or less. I feel the reduction should start from the top limit. Fishermen that fish outside the 3 mile limit should be allowed the 800 limit, but not allowed to fish inside the 3 mile limit.
72	5% for 5 years
73	There must be some harvesters that are fishing the number of traps that allow him to make a reasonable living. To proportionally reduce could put him out of business.
74	Everybody should have the same amount of traps.
75	It would keep some from progressing
76	Long ago
77	If it were to happen, it should be this way.
78	Only if we have to
79	Part timers should have less
80	Depends on zone!
81	Everybody across the board should be 600 traps.
82	5% a year for 10 years, 50% total

Question 7 - Would you support an across the board lower trap limit?

a. Yes, What limit _____? **b. No** **c. No opinion**

Count	Question 7 Comments
1	Inside max 300 traps.
2	No. I think it would hurt the younger fishermen in the families and more expenses.
3	No, I can't make enough money as it is.
4	Trap reduction will only work if entrance into the fishery is stabilized. Escalation from new entrants must cease.
5	Got to do something now
6	I support a lower trap limit for those who have just gotten into the industry in the last 10 years. I supported going to 800, and the DMR sold more licenses and allowed the trap limit to be defeated by allowing the new people to gear up to 800. One million three more traps in the water.
7	Minimal
8	Either/or but we must have a license freeze
9	600 to start. My zone is already at 600. It should be state wide.
10	Commercial statewide
11	The last trap limit put a million more traps in the water. I think the other zones should fish 600 traps, as well as Zone E.
12	Zone E currently lower than others
13	There are people with big families and big payments that need 800 traps, but then you have the retired people with 800 that should only have 200. That's discrimination, so I'll leave it up to the Commissioner, he should have all the answers.
14	Leave it alone. If the trap limit had stayed to 1,200, it would have been better. When they went to 800, there were more boats and more traps. I seriously think it should be left alone.
15	600 - Not less
16	500 traps state wide.
17	Only if the licenses were kept at 3 out of 1 in minimum.
18	If trap limit goes to 400, then freeze licenses sold

19	A gradual decrease: 750 to 700 to 650 to 600 over a 4 year period.
20	600 or less
21	All fishermen, federal and state.
22	Make sure you cut the part timer
23	700 - 600 Take away 100 per year.
24	Leave it alone!
25	I would support a reduction only if you cancel all the stupid whale regulations. Those bark eating, tree hugging morons are going to put us out of business.
26	Let latent effort not be such a focus
27	Never. Not the answer
28	Any limits will force fishermen to fire stern men who will fish alone or be unemployed.
29	100 traps per year
30	Zone E is already at 600
31	Only with an open access fishery
32	700 the first year, then 600. No less than 600.
33	100 per year until it reaches desired amount (400 - 500)
34	Only inside 3 mile limit
35	We already had trap reductions from 1,200 to 800.
36	No, but this is fair if it needs to happen
37	Gradual reduction.
38	600 for trail, more reduction if necessary
39	Decrease of 50 traps a year until reaching 600
40	I don't think anyone can make money with less than 600 traps.
41	Only if all new effort was reduced proportionally. Yes, but not by much. No less than 700.
42	Less can be more in lobstering. I feel 200 would be a sustaining number for both resource and fishermen but too shocking to accept by others.
43	Otherwise, go with the lowering of the trap limit for everyone.
44	Reduce trap limit to 600, that would fix most of the problems in this zone and enforce it. Check everybody.
45	It will put us out of business.
46	500 within state waters
47	600 - Zone F
48	Inside the exemption area
49	750 + 10%
50	600 in Zone D, as a last resort
51	I couldn't support it until more studies have been done on how many traps are being fished in certain areas.

Question 8 - Do you favor freezing the number of tags for those holding commercial licenses?

a. Yes b. No c. No opinion

Count	Question 8 Comments
1	Yes, with a case by case review to increase. Offer a reduced tag license (why have an 800 if you fish 300?).
2	Yes. Until the trap number is reduced in Zone F.
3	Some might need to go up to the legal limit.
4	No, too many licenses is the problem, not traps.
5	Yes, must work towards lowering number of traps fished. Determine optimum number for cost and work toward lowering total traps fished.

6 Every fisherman is either inside or offshore. Fishing should only be allowed 600 traps limits and of tags.

7 Do not lower the number of tags for current license holders. Reduce effort by stopping the issuance of new licenses.

8 Yes, if all are also reducing tags

9 Tags for Zone E are 600; are you asking if all zones should be 600?

10 Does not allow youngsters to grow in business

11 Before trap limit

12 Freeze at what number?

13 Yes, with a 2:1 tags out tags in

14 I have a commercial license, but am not using it. I keep it because I'm afraid if I don't send for it every year, I won't get another. It happened to me on the sea urchin license.

15 I think all fishermen should be treated fairly, not one have 100 tags and the fisherman along side have 800 tags. I think all fishermen should be allowed 800 tags if he chooses to do so.

16 It will put more traps back into the water

17 Maine promised not to do this.

18 To many fisherman now

19 If not lowered

20 I lowered my traps from 800 to 300, but if I wanted to fish a few more, I should be able to

21 No, not if they are fishing.

22 That depends on how the law is written

23 Aren't the number of trap tags frozen at 880 now? That's the max, isn't it? Keep up the good work. Allow this industry to survive!

24 Some what

25 Not sure.

26 Licenses: all of them 800, this is why more tags are ordered not just what people need

27 A little too late

28 Cut back

29 No, because it should be everybody one limit.

30 Small fishermen should be allowed to grow.

31 Don't include students

32 Only with an open access fishery

33 This is a poorly constructed survey which will produce poor results.

34 Leave trap limit at 800

35 Without buildup, kids can't make it

36 No, all fishermen have the right to be on an even playing field

37 If you do that how are the young ones going to increase by 100 each year?

38 Very much so

39 No opinion

40 Reduce

41 It will hurt up and coming fishermen.

42 If someone is just getting going and is honest and buys only the tags he needs, then freezing is unfair. Most buy more tags than they need.

43 A loser for our sons

44 What number of tags?

45 I do not favor freezing the number of tags because I personally can only fish 400 and 10% this year. I cannot come close to earning a living at that number.

46 No, because it should be everybody one limit.

Question 9 - Do you favor freezing entry of all new licenses into the fishery?**a. Yes****b. No****c. No opinion**

Count	Question 9 Comments
1	I believe my zone has a 5 - 1 reduction ratio that should work.
2	When 5 fishermen leave the industry, 1 fisherman can enter (within the zone fished).
3	4,000 tags out 800 tags in
4	Should have been done 10 years ago
5	Until traps are reduced in Zone F
6	Too many full timers, most entrants become full time
7	Yes, only way to stop escalation of effort is to determine historical average number of traps fished per zone or district. Divide trap allocation among fishermen. More power to districts allows them to allocate traps to participants. 1:1 ratio (people or traps) Allow districts to solve social crowding problems by distribution of trap allocation. Islands and towns will determine at what level of participation a new entrant will enjoy. Burden of conservation at local level. What percentage of traps are you willing to sacrifice to allow a new participant from your community. Maintain traps fished constant in community even with increased members, if community desires.
8	Licenses are frozen now. Keep it as is now. Replace as one is given up.
9	Not unless retired licenses can be transferred over to member(s) of your family
10	5 out to 1 in
11	Look into licenses being sold, like federal permits. You can only get one by buying it.
12	I think people who come from fishing families should have the first chance to get a license, traditional fishing families who have fished for generations.
13	Make licenses transferable.
14	Before trap limit
15	5 out to 1 in
16	2 out, 1 in
17	But lets go tags out tags in to stop effort build up
18	Includes students.
19	3:1 3 out for 1 in
20	Isn't the program working for this?
21	5 to 1
22	The only entries I think should be allowed are the Maine native kids, when they have completed their education.
23	Let the students get their license.
24	Students should still be allowed a commercial license. Those already in the apprenticeship program should be able to get a commercial license.
25	Yes, but not students
26	This should have been done with a trap limit
27	Just continue to limit the number of licenses issues each year
28	I think we need an entry/exit ratio in Zone C.
29	Over 18 years old.
30	Kids need to be able to enter if they want.
31	Maybe for a limited time until other changes are made 2-5 years?
32	Yes, freeze!! Moratorium, no!!
33	Fishery will level out with the costs of it, should be open access
34	5 out, 1 in

- 35 If the number of traps in the water needs to be reduced, don't penalize the fishermen who are currently making a living from lobstering. Instead, freeze entry of all new licenses, or require someone who wants to buy a license to have to buy out 2 or 3 current license holders. This way the number of traps will be reduced and the current license holder can still make a living.
- 36 I think yes to this in most places except the islands.
- 37 I would support freezing all new entry, but believe that there has to be a way to allow young people in to help small coastal communities and island viable. That being said, there is obviously way too much effort currently, but I believe that "tags in/tags out" ratio system will help eventually. In Casco Bay, there was a definite improvement in both gear, congestion, and catch in 1999 - 2000. It was in 1999 that the huge guys were dropped down to 1,000 traps. In our area, there were some fishing 2,000+ before that. Now, however, there has been such a flood of new entry over the past 8 years that the gear congestion problem is as bad as ever.
- 38 Including students
- 39 Because it takes too long for the apprentice people to get in. Apprentice program should be minimum of 2 years in the program and maximum of 5 years. So a total of 5 years to get a license.
- 40 Yes, except for the kids growing up and wanting to choose to be a fisherman
- 41 Young adults should have future.
- 42 If students can still get in.
- 43 3 years
- 44 Don't include students
- 45 Not kids.
- 46 I support our young/new fishermen
- 47 Yes, until you establish a realistic trap reduction
- 48 Where do the kids go here?
- 49 Who could fairly make the decisions of qualification. "Let the resources eliminate". Fisheries should not be limited to a fortunate few. Those willing to put effort and time, not just dollars, should be allowed entry. Resources need protection, yes, but with fair regulations. The resources will limit those who should possibly not be fishermen or women.
- 50 No, people need to work
- 51 Students should still be allowed. No recreational 5-trap licenses!!!
- 52 Yes, except out kids should be grandfathered
- 53 Yes, including recreational
- 54 Youth only, no adult entry
- 55 Students still should be allowed to enter the lobster industry (commercial licenses) and those who have already completed the apprentice program and are on a waiting list should be able to come in: 5 out, 1 in
- 56 Yes, I support this 100%
- 57 The current plan for a tag exit ratio should address this sufficiently.
- 58 All except the lobstermen's sons. If your father fishes, you should be able to also.
- 59 Including recreational.
- 60 This fishery is the only industry we have on Maine's out islands. What would the young people do?
- 61 No, on kids
- 62 5 out to 1 in
- 63 Possibly if our licenses could be bought and sold ourselves.
- 64 Young people need some avenue to enter the fishery. So, continuation of some type of option to secure that is important.
- 65 You freeze entry, you stop the youth from becoming lobstermen.
- 66 Yes, except sons of lobstermen
- 67 For a period of 4 or 5 years.
- 68 No, I want mine!
- 69 Generational licenses should be given out. My children are 6th generation and have to keep track of every move they make.

- | | |
|----|---|
| 70 | Give each district control of their entry. |
| 71 | Significantly increase the entrance/exit ratio |
| 72 | I feel that Zone C definitely needs to be closed with only students allowed to get in. We have the most amount of lobstermen in our zone already and no closure in sight. |
| 73 | No, because it takes too long for the apprentice people to get in. Apprentice program should be a minimum of 2 years in the program, a maximum of 5 years. So, a total of 5 years to get a license. |

Question 10 - Do you support eliminating latent effort (tags/licenses not currently being used), before moving forward on trap reduction?

a. Yes b. No c. No opinion

Count	Question 10 Comments
1	Yes, but no trap limit!
2	Trap reduction first, (illegible) retired tags.
3	Not that important.
4	If it eliminates the 5-trap recreational that is keeping short lobsters.
5	Revenue from latent licenses = "easy" money for patrol/safety. If they are not fishing, their gear is not out there, so by eliminating then doesn't reduce active fishing.
6	Just do it and move forward.
7	Time will do this.
8	No, tags not being used don't hurt anyone.
9	No latent effort catches lobsters. Traps not fished does not hurt fishery. Only affects fishery when unused traps or licenses are retired and enters fishery as an active participant.
10	need trap reduction now. Latent tags and licenses not used, eliminate or cancel all together.
11	Only if the threat of elimination doesn't cause the latent license to start fishing his tags to keep them. I know of incidences where this has occurred. If this is the case, no!
12	Eliminate with trap reduction
13	Not sure, a little confused on the wording. It doesn't make sense if 5 unused tags get retired, but 1 tag comes in and is fished.
14	Get rid of latent effort anyway!
15	Licensees who hold a license now count total licenses in the zone with the 5:1 rule. If these are deleted it would increase the active fishermen and traps in the water.
16	We can't afford a trap reduction.
17	Not an issue if trap limits decreased across the board.
18	What for? They have no effect.
19	That's conservation.
20	Just identify how many traps have tags in the water and are being used.
21	Should have been done long ago
22	Very good question
23	If I understand it right, I would think no because it's a form of conservation, if you think about it.
24	Makes no sense conservation wise. Latent effort in any form already, at the present, right now means fewer traps in the water!
25	I think if a lobsterman wants to buy his license and tags, it should be up to the person, should be able to choose to fish or not.
26	A lot of regulations have put more stress in lobster fishing
27	The only one thing wrong, in my opinion, is the cheating needs to be stopped. These are the licenses and trap tags being used in question #5.
28	Yes, as long as no new licenses go out.

- 29 If you do this, you have to go back a year or two so that it doesn't increase the number of fishermen, like it did when you went to limited entry. Do not give more chance to get in.
- 30 But it can't be done
- 31 If you eliminate latent effort, you must also freeze entry. As you remove a latent tag holder, you make room for someone new to enter. Removal of latent holders doesn't reduce traps in the water. If a new person then enters, you increase traps in the water.
- 32 If not used in 2 years take away license and tags.
- 33 If they are not being used, they shouldn't be a problem.
- 34 Yes, if they are holding a license and tags and are not fishing.
- 35 If you don't use them, you lose them. Do not punish a fisherman that depends 100% on lobster income. The ones that have other income, reduce their tags . There are a lot of part timers.
- 36 How do you know how many there are?
- 37 While looking at Zone C nominations, I counted 15 people I know that fish very few traps. Some don't fish at all, they just hold a license thinking they might be worth money some day. Others are stern men that fish 0 traps, many others I don't know. But I am sure of one thing, most of these guys buy 880 tags, which number wise makes it like there is much more effort than there actually is. Very damaging to the guys who fish year round and depend solely on lobster to feed their family. In Zone C, this could account for 15,000 traps that are on paper. Would be a crime to punish the guys depending on this with trap reduction when there is not the amount of traps in the water to begin with.
- 38 Should find out how many tags are not being used.
- 39 It will show the real effort and if you know to leave us alone.
- 40 NO! NO! NO!
- 41 Still lower limit
- 42 If these licenses aren't being used, they are not problem.
- 43 No, because fishermen I know can predict future actions of the DMR. No one trusts the DMR based on past experiences.
- 44 It helps keep the price of tags from increasing for the steady fisherman.
- 45 Latent licenses and tags put money into the fishery, with no fishing effort.
- 46 People that are holding licenses that don't fish hold families back that are waiting to get into the zone.
- 47 This is a numbers game only on paper
- 48 Eliminating latent effort will force people to fish the tags causing more traps to go in the water and increase effort.
- 49 No because if the traps are not being fished, why remove them. Also, there are many reasons not to use them and if you have a plan to remove them, people will fish them to keep the tags.
- 50 No trap reduction
- 51 What good would this do to reduce traps?
- 52 Set a control date that has already expired, then based landings before that date.
- 53 Because you will get an accurate count of how many tags being fished. I know of 7 people right now with latent licenses which are holding up people on the apprenticeship list to get in the fisheries.
- 54 We need trap reduction now!
- 55 How could this be done?
- 56 I would say do this, as well as the reduction
- 57 This is the key! Tags issued \neq Traps fished
- 58 No, because if you put pressure on latent effort, they will use them
- 59 Because I am not in favor or trap reduction.
- 60 It is important to freeze tags and reduce them first, then address latent efforts.
- 61 Allow fishermen to sell licenses to other qualified individuals in their area.
- 62 Yes, but no one is capable of making it happen
- 63 I think that the licenses should be removed and I support that our licenses should be worth money, like buy in and sell out.

64 What are you nuts? And then let in guys who fish hundreds?

65 Why eliminate a situation where everybody wins? The state gets paid for the license and the fishermen and the state don't have to worry about traps in the water. Isn't that the idea?

66 Not fishing, not part of the problem.

67 Because that doesn't impact the amount of traps in the water that are being used.

68 Licenses not being used are making the trap count for the state wrong.

69 Fishermen who hold a commercial license but aren't currently using them is not a bad thing. The state is getting its money through fees and the fishermen aren't taking any lobsters. That is what you call conservation. So leave them alone. If there is a question of over fishing, this is one way to handle it.

70 I do not support moving forward on trap reduction.

71 Not student latent tags

72 No, those licenses are not negatively impacting the fishery

73 Medical reasons

74 This does not hurt the industry.

75 The last time this happened, it put more gear into the water.

76 reduce to 600 (or less) and no hauling on Sundays year round.

77 No. Don't you think latent effort is a form of conservation in itself?

78 I feel it best to reduce the trap limit first. The reason for this is, if these fishermen aren't using their license, then these traps aren't in the water.

79 This would allow local fishermen to take these licenses.

80 It depends on how it will be done

81 That will just put more traps in the water.

82 You will only force those holding latent licenses into setting trap limit to maintain license.

83 This will drive individuals to use more tags, in order to not lose them.

84 They may not be using them because of health issues.

85 If you do this, you will only let the people on the waiting lists get their license.

86 Free money for the state with no strain at all on the fishery

87 If people are not using their tags, they are helping us by there being less traps in the water.

88 People pay for a license year after year, so they don't lose the right to fish.

89 Almost impossible to enforce.

90 I strongly disagree with question 10 because people that have been paying for their license tags all along should be allowed the right to choose whether or not they want to fish or not. Some of them may be held up from mishaps and at times they simply can't afford to fish., etc., etc.

91 At the same time

92 Immediate reduction

93 At the same time.

94 That person may be ill or undergoing surgery or dealing with other issues, you can't take away their right to fish.

95 You must use history. Go back at least two years with landings. Lobstermen with violations should endure some sort of trap reduction, especially repeated offenders. That will smarten them up!

96 This money adds a lot to the "coffers" without adding pressure on the resource (potentially).

97 It might hurt the up and coming fishermen.

98 Non used licenses are good for the industry.

99 If you want all dormant licenses invalid, you should have a buy back. Some people have spent thousands keeping their license, it shouldn't be just taken away from them

100 I think that a license holder should have to show landings (and a certain number of days) in order to keep their license. There's too many people holding a license that don't fish.

101 I would not remove tags with out compensation.

102	Latent effort produces revenue without pressure on the fishery.
103	I believe that the tags should stay the same, but if a license is not in use for more than 3 or 4 years, then it may be removed.
104	Maybe
105	Maybe reducing tags to 200 etc, but taking anyone's license, it would be the same as taking any other license issued by the state: drivers license, license to practice law, medicine, etc because it had been latent for whatever reason: sickness, age, etc. I do not think this type of heavy handed regulation is necessary to protect resource.
106	Use it or lose it.
107	May give us a bit more accurate count on actual traps being fished, however, may also spur those license/tag holders to put traps in the water, thereby actually increasing the numbers. Catch 22
108	Eliminating latent effort will allow for a better knowledge of just how many traps are in the water, a figure key to understanding effort and allowing for better judgment on any trap reduction decisions.
109	Yes, because you will get an accurate count of how many tags being fished. I know of 7 people right now with latent licenses which are holding up people on the apprenticeship list to get in the fisheries.
110	Because people could lose their job and fall back on it.
111	There are too many traps out there. I support moving forward on a trap reduction. I passionately support eliminating latent effort. There are two different topics. I saw a list of approximately 14 lobstermen (license holders) from one district in a zone, not using them. It seems criminal to me. I am trying to get my license to support my family and am looking at least 3 years on a waiting list after a 2 years apprenticeship. If they are not lobstering, they shouldn't have them. I also think laws should be tougher on those committing criminal offenses. For example, the major trap cutting complaint solved, they should have permanently lost their license.

General Comments

1	Increased costs, bait and fuel, are hurting my income. Expenses with help is \$500.00 a day before I see any income. Cutting back traps or tags makes sense with decreasing landings. In my zone, we are fishing Fall and Winter bottom year round.
2	Let economics take care of everything. Limited entry is just a few fishermen that have what they want and do not want anybody else to have anything. It is not how those country is supposed to work.
3	Traps are being set on the bottom where the lobsters aren't for 4 - 5 months, just to fish 800 traps. Less traps fished mean you have to set on the lobsters, not hog the bottom.
4	The state of Maine and the federal government have done more to harm the lobster fishery, rather than help it, through policy based on flawed/inexact science. If zones and trap limits had never been created, there would be less traps in the water today. You have created an arm race. Please don't try to fix the problem you've created by making more bad policies. DMR is poorly lead, top heavy, and too concerned with job security, all at the expense of the fishermen.
5	Discontinue the 5 trap non-commercial licenses. Discontinue the Lobster Promotion Council.
6	Discontinue the 5 trap license. Get rid of the Lobster Council. It's a waste.
7	Leave things alone! I have already done my part for conservation by reducing my traps by 5,890. Any more trap reductions forced on me, I will see the state in federal court for anti-trust violations.
8	Taking no action is not an option.
9	A trap limit has never been the answer to anything. Add Saturday to the Sunday law and the market and the resource could be even better. New Hampshire has commercial and non-commercial licenses and they did the math so that effort was reduced without crippling the full-time commercial fisherman. There has been no problem with the constitutionality of it, and I know that it has worked. I personally cut my string in 1/2 while others were allowed to increase. What ever problem that you in the DMR or Augusta legislature feel, these were created by your own ineptness in handling the fishery correctly. If you take more traps away, it would be like telling a carpenter to build a house with even less nails, shingles, etc. The result is half-a**** job and a our return. After everything+D642 I and so many others have done, that isn't acceptable at all, period.
10	We need every trap we can fish because of the cost of living. Any trap reduction will make everyone a part timer. If the state wants a reduction, get rid of people who don't make their living lobstering.

- 11 The state made a mistake from the start with the trap reduction because they would not stop people from building up. All they could think of was cutting a few people down. The state was told this would happen but they would not listen. Why does the government, state or federal, make a mess out of what they do? I think there has been too many know-it-alls in high places.
- 12 State needs to out 12 miles for state waters. New Hampshire needs to bring down their trap limit to ours. It was supposed to be the same in all of New England, what happened. They kept 1,200, we got 800. That's not fair! Should check out who's using extra 80 tags.
- 13 Must let some in as old fishermen get out, but cut number of traps. I feel going from 800 to 600 may work but we need more input from younger fishermen.
- 14 We need a closed season. January, February, and March. It would eliminate wet water storage and give the lobsters a rest.
- 15 We need to raise the minimum size gauge from 3 1/4" to 3 5/16". We need to let the small (short) lobsters have another year to reproduce before we can keep them. They need to be a year older.
- 16 I have had a lobster license for 60 years. The whale regulations are a complete farce!
- 17 Immediate trap limit to 500 state wide, even offshore. Freeze licenses and also be able to sell your license when you retire. Freeze trap tags as of 1/1/08.
- 18 I was reading the Commercial Fishing News. People were talking about rolling closures and other things, but all we have to do is some simple things: 1. Drop back the number of traps. This would cut back the closures of whale entanglement. 2. It would spread out the catch, preventing a glut of lobsters all at one time. 3. Expenses would go down along with bait, fuel, rope, traps, buoys, and much more. 4. Much less time working on gear. 5. We would not need rolling closures.
- 19 There is too much gear. We used to make a good living with 300 traps. Now we have too many hogs! I know, I am 71-years old.
- 20 Trap limits don't work. They took tags away from me and gave them to other people. Whale rules, fuel prices, bait will all change the lobster fishery.
- 21 I believe fishermen do a good job sustaining their industry. Also, the outside industry pressure (i.e. whale issue) is tremendous. In 30 years of lobstering, I've never seen a whale, never mind a whale trapped in lobster gear. I fish all winter. Needless to say, this gear has to be brought in, dried out, and redone to comply with this joke of a law.
- 22 You are 25 years late!
- 23 To my mind, trap reduction is key. Also, too many people fish more that one boat.
- 24 Less input from biologists, more input from experienced lobstermen.
- 25 The industry is way over fished.
- 26 Get rid of the 5-traps licenses.
- 27 Eliminate the 80 extra tags. Now they are being fished (illegible)
- 28 Get rid of all licenses not being used before we touch anything else.
- 29 Do you really think reducing traps in this economy is a smart idea? With the price of everything going sky high, I'm going to need every trap I can get to pay my bills. Not good timing at all! My son has just finished his apprentice program. He's 20-years old, started at 10-years old. I think he has paid his dues. He never lied about his hours or days. I know plenty that did. They have their licenses. If you want the economy of this state depressed even more than it is and coastline sold off cause we can't afford to keep it, go ahead and reduce across the board. Then we can go find a small place in Florida to live.
- 30 This lobster (illegible).Fuel and bait will take care of its own. Just leave it alone.
- 31 I am a capitalist, not a socialist. I'm for freedom with no political intervention or localized plunder. Let the market rule, not you! You mean like trap tags will never be used against us.
- 32 Yes, you are taking our right away as Americans. Tags used to be .20 cents, now it's all about money. Same with lobster licenses, used to be \$10. You people are creating more jobs for yourselves. As for bait, you are cutting down every year, before long we will all be working for the state. At least we have costly wardens that cruise in their boats making a show!
- 33 I think freezing or longer waiting period by a certain number of traps leaving before entry will help, but it's not the total answer to the declining catch.
- 34 Latent effort never catches one single lobster!
- 35 No sense changing trap limits etc. until there is a serious restriction on student licenses. Student licenses means unlimited entry and because of this concept, there is no limit to trap numbers. How about student licenses have a very small trap limit, say 200 or 300?
- 36 I am going to be 78 years old this year. I have cut back on the number of traps I fish. I did not fish last year due to sickness, may not be able to fish this summer.
- 37 Taking away from people who make part or all of their income is never a good thing, unless all are willing.

- 38 I'd like to know how people can fish traps and have other people bill them on the internet at 3000 (illegible) per trap? Seems quite a gray area to me!
- 39 A lower trap limit will encourage people that have federal permits to fish in federal waters that don't now. People will fish more pairs, which results in more end lines that the whale people won't like. Fathers, sons, brothers, sisters, or daughters should be able to double up on one boat. 1,200 traps for 2 licenses holders would eliminate 400 traps on bottom per 2 licenses. 2 people doubling up one boat also would save fuel versus fuel for 2 boats and 1,200 traps, plus they are saving on bait. If the 2 license holders want to separate or go on their own, they would only be able to have 600 each. I firmly believe that if a 75% return is not achieved on this survey, then it should be thrown out! It's not fair for people with only a few tags or part timers to control full time, well established fishermen. I do believe that everyone should have a voice, but these surveys usually show a lopsided view, like Northern Maine versus Southern Maine.
- 40 We need to ensure that people in student license category are not shut out of getting their regular license when they qualify. These kids are the future, not the problem. I also think it's time we are able to see our licenses with our boats, like federal permits. This could be a control and eliminate apprenticeships for anyone over 22 years old. This would keep a lot of adults out of the business and encourage young people to want to work and stay in Maine and keep our fishery alive and reduce people from looking at it as just a living. Most fishermen I know are in it for the lifestyle and what it is, probably the best job in the world. My son wants this and I hope your children, nieces, nephews, and other young people get a chance, like I did.
- 41 The problem is complex. A simple solution, such as limiting tags, will not serve as a viable answer. We need a systematic solution. Tag limits might actually put more gear in the water. Fishermen are shifting gear more often and fishing deeper. Has the lack of regulation of offshore fishing resulted in a decline of catch for inshore fishing?
- 42 We need a limit of 600 traps for each zone and eliminating the replacement tags.
- 43 Trap limits are a law against hard-working people. When you take away the right for a person to fish as hard as they want and start giving it to a group of people who are buying a 5-trap permit to fish, something is wrong with this picture. The system of old was working fine. Since the trap limit tags have gone up and traps in the water have gone up, where's the conservation you people so heavily preached? Politics as usual!
- 44 I would like to see a federal sponsored buy out before we talk about anymore effort reduction for full time fishermen.
- 45 Freeze licenses, then reduction. Good start.
- 46 Zone F has double the trap amount as Zone G and E. Stop the draggers from taking lobsters because they take mostly big female breeder lobsters that take a long time to recoup.
- 47 I've been lobstering 30 years. I used to fish 1,200 traps. Now I can only have 800, but every new guy getting in gets 800 instantly. Close the door on licenses. Get rid of the student license, or should be all just have 100 traps so nobody makes a living.
- 48 This is America. If a person want to be a commercial fisherman, he or she should be allowed to do so. How far into h*** is this state or country going to go before someone says enough? When I started fishing in the 1950's, it offered a promise of a decent future. Between the state and the federal government, it has been turned into a living h***.
- 49 It is everyone's right to hold a license, whether they use it or not. Those who hold a license and don't fish are only helping the industry by not using their license. That means less traps in the water. If you want to help the industry, get rid of the recreational license because that only gives license holders a right to be on the water, keeping all they catch. Licenses should be able to be passed down to a family member. That would keep licenses in check, instead of letting outsiders in. Those who have worked the ocean all their life, know how important it is to not abuse the fishery. I have had my license for 40 years and now I am on dialysis every other day. I buy my license every year but now fish very few. I don't feel I should have my license taken away because I don't use it very much!
- 50 Latent effort and tags not being used change a lot on figures of catch per year. People hold on to licenses and buy tags hoping they will be worth something in the future.
- 51 Cut traps in Casco Bay, to be able to sell licenses, gives back to the state.
- 52 The problem is that there are too many lobstermen with very little experience making a mess out of everyplace they get near.
- 53 I would support trap limits and reductions only if questions 8, 9, and 10 are addressed first. I was a stung advocate for the Chester Rice Bill back in 1995. After the full time fishermen made all the sacrifices, the fishery was left virtually wide open. I was one of the first members of Zone F council. To say I became disillusioned with the bureaucracy at the state level is an understatement. The questions you've grappling with now are questions that should have been addressed back then. In spite of my frustration at the powers that be, I think we still have a viable fishery. Don't make the people that are in the fishery now make anymore sacrifices for the ones coming along. We made all the sacrifices in 1995. It's only fair that you try to protect the ones in the business now while there still is a business to protect. Deal with 8, 9, and 10 first, then deal with 6 and 7.

- 54 Remember the last trap limit? I do. I took 1,400 traps out of the water, while new fishermen were increasing their traps. We can't trust the state. Does Maine want lobstermen to go broke? Then reduce the amount of traps again and we will. Also the zone lines are restricting our ability to earn a living. Someone up in Augusta needs to start thinking.
- 55 I support lowering the number of tags in my area, but not through an across the board cut. Through license freeze and retirement, any further reduction in trap limit will force full time people out. And make the fishery a part time business. You will need to have a land job and a small boat. It will be a supplementary income fishery.
- 56 A person should be required to fish in its designated zone. What is the point of letting a person with a designated zone fish in someone else's zone after the person made his zone better.
- 57 The lobsters will be on the bottom regardless. We should limit the traps.
- 58 The lobsters are hounded 12 months out of the year with no break. Spring fishing is not good because the punt fishermen have fished the rocks all winter. How about a closed season? Closed seasons and limited traps have paid off in other areas.
- 59 Just read the WWF article on the Monhegan Experiment. I totally agree with the idea and have been saying it for years that less is more when it comes to lobster traps fished! Let's all follow the lead of Monhegan Island, fast!
- 60 I feel strongly that we need to lower the trap limit, with continued limited entry.
- 61 We need to be more conservative in protecting the resource, we seem now to be catching a very high percent of legal lobsters. My hope in reducing the effort would be to carry over to the next year a higher percent of legal lobsters and build the inventory some what as a better toward a stable harvest. This should also add to our inventory of egg layers.
- 62 I didn't answer questions 5 - 7 because they are obviously looking to reduce traps for the whale plan. I would love to reduce my capitol investment and use less traps. The Monhegan study proves something most of us already knew. But when you add large numbers of fishermen to the area, I have to wonder how different an outcome you would have. Most production places would get hit very hard. Prove to me I can get the same results as Monhegan in an uncontrolled situation and I'll climb on board. It's a no-brainer. I've already given up 1/3 of my gang when we got the 800 limit, just to watch someone else fish them. Not stuck on seeing that again.
- 63 How do you eliminate latent effort? There are always loop holes you could use to show proof etc. Any limits have to have a control date years back because people will just ramp up effort, tags, etc. if freezing tags or reducing traps proportionally.
- 64 Take the cost of fuel, plus the cost of the whale rope, plus the added cost of all our supplies. Cost of traps already 18 1/2 percent increase cost of wire and all the supplies that we need in our business. We will be lucky to be able to stay in this lobster business. Just what do young people think we will be able to get for a price for our lobster? Lobsters are not a commodity like milk, bread and other staples!
- 65 Don't reduce traps to full time fishermen until you address part time summer fishermen. Last time you did it put traps in the water. If you are worried about over fishing, raise the measure a 1/4 of an inch. Part time fishermen should have a vote into how I make a living when I fish 12 months a year and fish in the federal waters 10 months a year. If anything, give me more traps!
- 66 I am concerned about artificial bait (such as animal hides). How can we be green with cow hide?
- 67 Sometime ago, a survey was sent out and the lobstermen agreed on a 600 trap limit. The powers to be said no, and made the limit 800. So, a survey doesn't sit too high in the water, as far as I can see.
- 68 Would favor everyone with the same trap limit.
- 69 The lobster business does not need more restrictions. A major shake out is taking place now!
- 70 Surveys such as this one should only be sent to license holders that are full-time lobstermen who do not have other jobs.
- 71 Make lobstermen fish in own zone. No 50% here and 50% there.
- 72 The only reduction we need is a reduction in environmentalists!
- 73 How many whales have wound up in rope that have a 4 inch red marker in it. We have been putting red markers in our warps for 10 years, we don't have a whale problem. We never did have a whale problem. But we will be the ones paying for it. When does it all stop, when we're out of work?
- 74 It does not seem to make much sense to allow individuals to increase trap numbers by 100 when the all over goal is to reduce effort. Do you know what the impact of non-commercial license holders has on the resource?

- 75 I supported trap limits last time, but as a full timer I feel it's unfair to me to fish the same amount of gear as an electrician or a firefighter or a realtor. My point, take traps away from the part timer, not someone who makes all of their income from lobstering.
- 76 I am 80+ years old, so my answers to 6 - 20 would be unfairly answered.
- 77 Have 2 classes of licenses, 1 with a limit of 600 traps for those who entered the fishery after the 800 trap limit started and 1 with 800 traps who entered the previous trap limit.
- 78 Bait is a huge problem. Float rope end lines must be allowed or too much gear will be lost causing an environmental crisis.
- 79 With the price of fuel so high, all businesses are effected. We need 800 traps. Traps set overs are longer with the bait and fuel being at high costs so we can make a profit. In time, the trap number will come down . Look at the age of lobster license holder. Don't make more changes. We need a stable plan to work with, and we have one!
- 80 Do no harm to those who have already invested in the business and are trying to make a living. Freeze all tags at current levels and freeze all new licenses. Decrease through attrition. Fuel and bait prices will eliminate a lot of people this year.
- 81 800 traps is a manageable amount to fish, we want to work! The problem with this industry is everything we use is going up in price for what we get paid. Lobster is cheaper than meat. The more it costs the lobster dealer to run their business, the less they pay us. They don't take a cut in pay, but we do. Bait dealers are the same way. Bait has doubled in price in five years. Lobstermen are going bankrupt while everybody else gets rich. Stop picking on us. Go after the price gorgers. All of our surplus lobsters go to the d*** Canadians. They make millions on our resource because there isn't a lobster processing plant here in Maine. It seems Maine wants to keep its people barefoot, starving, and toothless. The poverty in this state of Maine is disgraceful.
- 82 Lowering trap limits "kills" the fishermen!
- 83 I believe we are getting an imbalance of male to female lobsters because of the notch law. The number of traps is not as much of a problem as the number of fishermen. The pie slices are too small.
- 84 I feel that 1 boat, 1 person should be check in most harbors. Saco River is one that the wardens should check.
- 85 Stop guys from fishing from 2 boats to have 2 limits. Like fishermen from Zone G. You should have to haul you're own traps yourself. Not haul your wife's traps because she can't. This is not right just so you can haul more gear. One boat, one license, one limit. That's it.
- 86 We need to get rid of part time fishermen. No people working full time jobs getting benefits, getting cream of the lobsters. My health insurance is \$10,000 a year.
- 87 Let us learn from our history. When we implemented the trap limit to 800, more traps went into the water. Let's find out the number of traps needed to support an area without over fishing, divide by the number of fishermen/tags fished in a zone/freeze licenses and tags until this number is reached. Why put more people out of business by letting new people in. Eliminating latent licenses will only put those traps in the water. Across the board cuts will only make lobster fishing a part time business. We, as Maine lobstermen, have led the charge for conservation of our industry and for whales. As for the "conservationists", instead of suing us, why not put their money where their mouth is and buy the sink rope for us. Plus pay for our year true loss and possibly loss of life and equipment due to hung down traps. Yes, I am concerned!
- 88 I have held a license for about 30 years and fished off and on, mostly part time for a majority of that time. My siblings and I all took our turn stern manning for our father. For the past several years, I have only fished minimally and any landings were recorded for my dad. He retired last year and it is unlikely I will use my license for a while, but I wish to keep it active so that I may use it in the future. Given this, I often feel that I do not have to right to comment on the surveys posed by DMR.
- 89 I feel if we are forced to cut back our number of traps than every body else should have to. Five trap licenses could be cut to one or two traps. Student licenses should be reduced and not automatically receive a license but go on the waiting list. The number of traps a person can increase each year (currently 100) should be reduced.
- 90 Don't give out anymore apprentice applications.
- 91 Decreasing the number of traps will help lobster fishing management, drastically reduce effort, and help improve responsible trap maintenance.
- 92 Offshore lobstermen are fishing way over the limit for tags and of traps because they can use lower settings for dragging strips that are not buoyed. Immediate trap and tag limit for inshore and offshore fishing. A waiting period of 5 years, if necessary, on all new licenses proving 3 years of apprenticeship. Need more warden to be educated and trained, incentive program in high school or college.

- 93 I will be 85 this August, have lobstered nearly 70 years. Currently, I fish 15 traps but get 30 tags. I fish from late May to early November. I don't see any, but it is a very important part of my life.
- 94 I am 72 years old and can remember when the lobster industry was meager and it has not done anything but get better supporting more men through the years. We have got accustomed to going beyond our needs but this is not the fault of the fishing industry.
- 95 I believe that the price of tags and licenses increase has and will not solve the whale issue. I've done this over 20 years and have never seen a right whale, ever!
- 96 You need to support the backbone of Maine lobster industry, i.e. lobstermen that make 100% of their living from the industry. Cut the effort of the double dippers, support fishing families. Allow grandfathers who retire to pass down their licenses to grandchildren or family members. Cut the effort of the "get rich quick" double dipper who don't care about the long term livelihood of generations to come.
- 97 Doing a great job to make more paperwork!
- 98 I started in 1970 and I rowed to my first 6 traps out of a punt. Now, new guys buy 40 footers and a gang of traps to start. It's not right. Limit new guys.
- 99 If a person has a primary full time job, he should be limited to 100 traps.
- 100 A young person with a high school education should be allowed to acquire a license and enough tags to make a living (18 - 20 year olds). However, people who work at the mill or other jobs should not. Fishing is not a part time job or hobby!
- 101 I fish less than 100 traps in June. When the lobsters first come out, there are 2,000 traps in a small area, within 3 weeks, the number is down to 200.
- 102 We need to keep our present trap limit in order to make a living. I think the overall problem with our industry is the overwhelming amount of lobstermen allowed into our industry before regulation and conservation efforts were implemented.
- 103 New license include students and apprentices before trap reduction. You must stop all entry.
- 104 If we can haul fewer traps for the same catch, we save on fuel and bait costs per pound caught. To decrease traps in the water, 1) Eliminate latent licenses. 2) Freeze everyone at current level. 3) A temporary freeze on new entry, there is only so much ocean bottom. 4) Then reduce everyone by 25% to 50% so those on top have a maximum number of 400 to 600. We can catch the same amount with less gear. If we don't do this, our daily expenses will put us out of business. You can't reduce traps for those already in the business, but continue to allow new entries. To pass the sustainability benchmark, we have to lower the number of traps in the water.
- 105 Don't do it again! The last trap limit was short sighted and allowed new licenses into the fishery to take over the traps of those you took away and allowed smaller fishermen to build up. In my opinion, that ruined the lobster fishery as a profitable business. To bring it back, no licenses should be issued for 15 - 20 years. I'll be 60 soon along with many others leaving the industry. High expenses will drive many more. You will need half out for the rest to survive.
- 106 The trap limit should have been in place years ago (illegible).
- 107 There's a lot of 5 trappers in Zone F.
- 108 No closed or limited entry, or strap licenses. Every Maine citizen should have the right to fish up to 200 traps.
- 109 Do not limit trap amount without limiting license limit license first. Eliminate latent license now. Do not wait for trap reductions.
- 110 Tell the government to get a clue and leave the fishermen alone.
- 111 I believe the number of traps fished should be 600 traps, freezing of all entry of new licenses. If you want to enter a zone, you purchase an existing license after (illegible) are removed. The state would benefit from a capital gains tax on the purchase of this license. A valid license holder would be able to lease 20% of his tags to another fisherman after qualifying.
- 112 At 400 limit, this area would still be over fished. Retroactive license take back would be needed, even if it had to go back far enough to take mine.
- 113 There is a corollary between the number of traps in an area and the number of lobsters being fed by those traps. A reduction in traps should be based on a stake holder management scheme, those that need the business to survive take the least reduction. Our infrastructure has gone stagnant with the 800 trap limit. There are now no successful lobster catchers in Zone F. They, the successful ones, used to buy wharfs and bait coolers shore side facilities etc. but because retirees, school teachers, and firemen are able to compete at the same level as those that have no other income but lobstering, the revenues from lobstering don't do to shore side facilities anymore.
- 114 Reducing the number of traps the recreational licenses can fish. More strict enforcement of laws.
- 115 The State of Maine has totally mishandled the trap limit, traps have more than doubled since 1996 because of build up and continued entry. What has been inflicted on us full timers is totally inexcusable, to impose an individual limit with absolutely no state limit was totally wrong and shortsighted. If we don't start taking traps out of the water instead of adding to the pie, we may as well have no limit at all and let the strong survive.

116	Consideration should be given to establishing a license category between recreational and commercial based upon percentage of income earned from commercial fisheries.
117	More enforcement to curtail those who fish over the limit inshore and offshore.
118	If a trap limit is where we are headed, I think the lobstermen that have been in the business for 10+ years have already given enough, 2 measure increases and 1 trap reduction. Get rid of the latent licenses. Take an average of the tags people have bought in the last 3 years and that's what people get for tags. When new people get into the business and there was a trap limit already of 400-500 traps, they would know this and wouldn't go out and buy \$200,000 - \$300,000 boats. They would base their business on 400-500 traps and if they don't like the limit, they won't get in the business to start with, unlike the people that have been in the business for a long time. Grandfather us at 800 traps, the new people get 400-500 and if they don't like it, they won't get started and be in a hard way like us.
119	Zone F is known as the Bay of Pigs for a good reason. We have 800 traps and no area to put them. Too small of a bay!
120	I've held a commercial license for 40 years. I am only using a small number of tags currently, but want to retain the right to increase that number in the future. I've done this honestly by not requesting tags I don't use. People that do that are not being honest.
121	I cannot support a trap limit unless we have limited entry. Limited entry must come first.
122	Trawls should be limited to no more than 10 tags.
123	Document latent effort first. Then move towards proportional trap reduction.
124	You have to stop entry of licenses for a trap limit to work. How about a closed season?
125	I believe that state should buy back lobster licenses for a fixed price and then sell them to the individuals (students and ones on waiting lists). This would be an incentive to the lobsterman that is exiting the business and put newcomers on an equal setting for obtaining a lobster license. With students obtaining licenses over and above the exit/enter ratio, the industry isn't going to get ahead (accomplish less traps in the water).
126	We need to freeze licenses. Less traps, less expense, less lines in the water for whales.
127	Having watched 2 fisheries decline in this state, it is time to be proactive in helping the lobster fishery. We cannot afford to lose another fishery. We can reduce our effort and cut expenses. Still catching the same amount of lobster. Less end lines in the water for the whales.
128	In Alaska, crab fishermen own a license to fish that is property they sell upon exiting the industry. Maine should look very closely at the benefits of that system. Those fishermen have a very vested system in protecting the viability of the fishery to protect the resale value of their licenses. This system also affords the state opportunity to buy licenses and retire them in times of reduced resource, there-by supporting the economies viability of their commercial fleet. Today, my single most severe problem is the number of traps I haul on any given day that have nothing in them that I can sell. My next most perplexing (back breaking) problem is the rate of increase in my operating expenses. A third problem is a market of distribution system that has flat lined the boat price, in recent years.
129	As I am aging, my lobstering effort has been reducing over the past few years. I am fishing closer to the shore, way too much gear there (and every where, I guess.) Trap numbers need to be reduced, NOW!
130	Let's stop talking about it and do something before it is too late.
131	There are too many traps in the water right now, period. Marine Patrol doesn't have the resources needed to do their jobs and enforcing and prosecuting the ones breaking the law.
132	This state has destroyed the lobster industry with its poor management plans and lack of enforcement. The only chance for survival of the industry and fisherman is to set traps out of the water permanently. I used to fish 2,000 traps before the limit. There are many more traps in the water now thanks to your plans - nice job.
133	New licenses should only be acquired thru a process similar to the federal lobster pursuits. Increase shell size 1/32" per year until minimum size is 3 3/8". Increase enforcement. Increase fines and suspension periods for possessing notched or scrubbed lobsters.
134	At present I do not have the experience to comment on the above. I fish 4-5 traps in Cobscook Bay Zone A during July and August. Most lobsters in the bay are shedding during this time period. I fish for crabs for family consumption. Crabs are not as large or plentiful as they were.
135	I think that outside fishing in winter with a lot of traps and large boats with big crews had a lot to do with the low lobsters in the summer. A few years ago their was very little fishing outside in winter.
136	Too many traps in during peak seasonal fishing. No fisherman needs more traps than he can haul in a 2 day period.
137	Eliminate all strings in state waters. Only singles and pairs.

- 138 Why don't you do it the easy way: reduce the number of traps in the water by changing license structure. Commercial licenses - higher trap limit with a proven record that shows that license holder gets 95% of income from lobster fishing only. All others get a non-commercial license with up to 300 traps and those that only want a recreational licenses could fish up to 25 traps. This would reduce effort and the number of traps in the water, but get those that truly fish for a living a better chance.
- 139 The trap tag program is a joke. We are paying extra for tags (illegible). Don't have our name in (illegible). For me, tag Maine company: 1. Pennsylvania more, now New York, and we wait forever for our tags!! Keep our money in Maine. What comes around, goes around. Some common sense in all the rule making!!
- 140 There may be the same number of lobsters in Zone F. The problem is more one of 4 - 5 times the total number of traps which should be fished in the zone. The pie is being divided into smaller pieces for each fisherman. To try to get their piece of the pie, more traps, longer set and cheating are commonly employed practices.
- 141 My answers are based from the zone I fish (Zone E - 2), which already has a trap limit of 600.
- 142 This is the right time to reduce traps, if lobstering was good you wouldn't get the support. Students should go on the waiting list. If you have ever seen a lobster trap in a lobster pound, it confirms the idea that you can catch the same amount of lobsters with less traps. Act now!
- 143 I think we need to put effort into creating better marketing and increasing the boat price paid for our products. I am worried about the escalating price of fuel and bait, but not product. I feel our states government (i.e. governor) needs to entice the addition or more processing facilities in our state to take advantage of the product and not send so much at Canada.
- 144 Leave it alone. Stay out of the fishermen's place to govern themselves.
- 145 Would like to see young people be able to get tags and licenses and be able to build up their tags.
- 146 The state should stop issuing recreational licenses. I fish in Zone E where our trap limit is 600 and I feel that the issuance of recreational (5 trap) licenses is not right. If commercial fishermen are trying to reduce impact by reducing their traps, there should be no recreational licenses.
- 147 Not that this matters, but if we have a trap reduction, 50% of the lobstermen on the coast of Maine will lose everything! I love fishing, you're killing us. I'm a 3rd generation lobsterman. I don't see my kids carrying on. And not one of you cares what happens!
- 148 Freeze licenses. Freeze student licenses. The recreational license is a slap in the face and an insult to full timers.
- 149 I think we have one of the lowest trap limits on our zone already and before we should cut back, the larger zones should be brought down to ours. (Zone E)
- 150 Lobstering is a self-employed business, you are the person in control. Let the working strong survive. I call trap reduction laws, pair laws, etc. all jealousy votes. If you work 40-60 hours a week you'll get paid, if not, you won't. Everybody is different you will never ever make everybody the same kind of lobsterman or get them to agree on most subjects. We have good laws in place. If anything, increase the measure size from 3 1/4 to 3 3/8 or even as high as 3 1/2. It worked in the past, it will work again. You get a nice lobster to market, more weight and more breeders, it's best for the industry. I've watched fishermen come and go for 30+ years thinking they're going to get rich quick. Most have found out you have to work and they move on. Looks like, to me, there are more lobster in more areas, population looks good.
- 151 The state should be the same, the whole coast - 600 traps
- 152 Zone E should be allowed to increase to 800 traps like the rest of the state. Any fool can see where you are going with this, 1 year out of 20 does not justify panic. The lobster population is fine, the economic situation is not. We are being paid the same now as we were 10 years ago. The expense of catching them has increased 4 times, the dollar is at an all time low, so we have to let them soak for a longer period of time to maximize catch for cost. I have been doing this for 30 years. We have had ups and downs, this is just a bump in the road. Please do not over analyze it. I think that this year will be a good one for poundage, but economically not so good. We are over regulated now, so please use your brain and not pressure from people who know nothing about this business to make decisions.
- 153 I cannot afford to fish less traps than I am now. The only reason Monhegan did better is because it was a better year for lobsters (and they fished 2 months longer). The industry is hard enough as it is and with the economy in the shape it is in, the state of Maine would do well to consider the impact any new regulations would have on such an important industry. The state nearly ruined the shrimp industry (which I had to abandon, in effect ruined it for me) by over regulating it. You are already well on your way to doing it to the lobster industry. I would prove this by bring your attention to the amount of boats in foreclosure status! If the state has any real regard for this industry, listen to the men who were the ones who came up with their own regulations so many years ago. I believe a state wide trap limit is a must to get rid of the petty squabbling between older and younger fishermen and the zones.
- 154 I think there are too many traps.

155	I have been fishing for 30+ years and have never seen the business as dishonest as it is today. We need more wardens patrolling Zone D.
156	If you restrict the number of traps, it should be one a percentage basis. No more licenses!
157	#9 and #10 are the best two ways to reduce the number of traps in our zone.
158	I am in favor of a trap limit due to increase in cost of bait and fuel. The V-notch lobsters in my area seem to be disappearing at an alarming rate and yes, I am all for a trap reduction and I am already doing so on my own. Also, I'm in favor of increase in size of measure.
159	There are too many people lobster fishing with other full-time jobs and recreational licenses which puts a lot of pressure on the full-time guys. The lobster pie is sliced way to thin.
160	Stop the over fishing by full time fishermen and do away with student licenses.
161	People concerned about the f***** whale people don't care about lobsters. Going to be a lot of gear lost, who cares. Who bought who out? The lost traps are going to kill a lot of things in the water.
162	Over head is getting so big, fuel and bait may not even be able to get it, and if you do, can't afford it. Been a fishermen 40+ years. Real worried about survival! In Zone E, a 400 trap limit may work.
163	I believe that if the trap limit is lowered, there will be more molesting and hauling of other people's traps. Therefore, I feel that there should be a time limit during the summer - no hauling after a certain hour. If caught, automatic loss of license for 3-4 months, 2nd offense loss of license permanently.
164	I don't support any reduction until you, the state, stop people from fishing out of two boats and using his kids' tags. It must be stopped and you could do it by making an owner operator policy in effect, with one license 800 tags. Whales are going to put people out of business.
165	If there is a trap reduction, it has to be addressed to the fact that some fishermen put their 10 year old sons and daughters in 35 foot boats with several hundred traps to beat the system. It is being done in the zone that I fish and have fished for 40 years.
166	We need a waiting list for student to commercial, if we have for adults (unfortunately) if we are serious about limiting effort.
167	At the present, some are not honoring the trap limit of 800 or fishing traps without tags on them. There must be a way to stop this cheating. I believe that the old tags need to be removed each year because of the colors being duplicated periodically. I have had to stop fishing in some places because of too many traps, as many as 25 or more traps being tangled together.
168	We need a trap limit around 500 - 550 because of the high fuel and bait prices. It's a no brainer; less fuel, less bait and less traps in the water means more money in fishermen's pockets!
169	I think the current trap limit needs to be enforced, now it is not at all enforced. We need to enforce current rules before making new rules and regulations. Also, there is a problem with students fishing while not attending any schools or college, just signing up for classes to get and keep their student license. There are several I know of that have absolutely no college classes, but yet they keep a student license.
170	I feel the kids should be allowed to get a lobster license no matter the restriction. I am against a lower trap limit.
171	I think they should clamp down on the ones fishing in two boats, using their kids as stern men for extra tags.
172	More whales are killed by tankers than by lobstermen. The only reason it's not fought is because oil companies have more money than fishermen. The whale path is not in the lanes of lobstermen, only rarely.
173	I think its time to take care of the fishermen like Rand Lee II on fishing two boats with his kids' tags. All you have to do is rewrite the law to owner operator and that would solve the problem. I've been talking with Richardson about this and he said you can't change this over night. People have been complaining about this for years. And you do nothing.
174	I and many of my fellow fishermen would support a 4:00pm curfew, June 1st to September 1st. This would decrease effort, decrease illegal activities, when they usually happen when most fishermen are done and would give the wardens more time to check tags, and would help with surveillance time. This would be a no-brainer and would pass.
175	I think a lobsterman should be able to sell his license when he hits retirement age. You say this cannot be done. I believe we can change the law to allow this. If not, the fisherman is going to be stuck with a boat and traps. (Think about it, everybody is getting older.)
176	ALWTRP will create more lost gear in the water. The percentage reduction should have been done years back. Licenses should be able to be sold or handed down.
177	I think you have to put enough effort in reducing the lobster fishery. Leave it alone and it will take care of itself.
178	Too many part timers. Fishing has been overdone.

179	If we go to a 600 trap limit, next it will be 400 then 300. Lobstering is the only business that you cannot build up in and expand. I think lobstering should be closed 3-4 months out of the year--January, February, and March. The lobstermen need to make a stand. A trap limit to 600 is not the answer.
180	Get rid of recreational licenses!
181	I feel the state should put the whale restrictions outside the 3 mile line. That would show to the Maine fishermen that the state is behind them, instead of the over and over again against us. Fishing is hard enough without these ridiculous laws. And stop the trawl survey.
182	Make an income amount, you must make to keep your commercial lobster license. Make it minimal \$5,000. Get rid of Warden Jodi. She's an idiot!
183	The number of traps need to be cut back uniformly for everyone. No issuing of extra tags due to loss until it happens and is proven.
184	Any lobstermen should not be allowed to fish more than 10% of their total traps in a district that they don't vote in. That would solve a lot of cluster fishing problems.
185	There are a number of fishermen holding licenses that are not being used. Pull them. I think that licenses that have been turned in should be posted so we know that license are not being used is right. My son has been fishing with me since he was a child. He has held a license before, but he has to be on the waiting list.
186	There should be a separate waiting list for new licenses for multi-generation fishing families. My son should have first pick for a license over some fellow whose family never fished. Right whales are no danger in my area. Even though I'm fishing the open ocean, no one in my area has ever seen a right whale or even seen any kind of whale entangled. The scientists pretty much know where the right whales are and travel. We have a few smaller whales around our area and they swim all around our gear (in the lat summer/fall) and we have never had one single incident (to my knowledge) on tangled whales. Once I did see a large sea turtle slightly tangled at the surface, but he was quickly/easily untangled and released unharmed, and sea turtles are quite rare around here. I fish out of New Harbor (Pemaquid Point) 12 miles from Monhegan Island. I know the ocean, I don't fish rivers/bays too much.
187	I have fished almost 40 years. I never thought I couldn't make a living. I'm afraid the expense of everything business related is going to make it impossible to go.
188	Number of traps per fisherman are necessary to make a living. Licenses need to be reduced by 25 - 30%. Last in, first out.
189	There are too many licenses out in Zone D. There are too many traps per boat. The catch declined here last year as fuel, traps, and bait prices went through the roof. It's later than you folks in Augusta think. Nearly every lobsterman I know is struggling. You need to reduce traps and boats now!
190	The whale matter is bull. People should fish in their own area or off shore more to cover the 880 traps. Your number of tags should be yours and only yours. Lobstering should be for lobstermen, not drug dealers.
191	460 per boat, haul 230 a day, take one day off, haul again. Fellow Monhegan (illegible) are smart. Bait and fuel too expensive. We are the efficient lobstermen. Too much bait wasted and set times are too long. Less traps = some total pounds. Shifting gear to spot with less traps per acre. Less traps = less expenses.
192	I support 2 rolling closures for the months of June and July. It's so expensive to operate at current levels. Everyone would catch as much with half of the traps. Zone exit ratio should take care of new entrants. All the traps in the bank in June for Kittery - Port Clyde the July for Port Clyde - Canada.
193	I think that the whale line should be moved to the 12 mile line. I think that the trap limit should be 600, starting at 800 and going down 50 traps a year for 4 years. Stop giving white replacement tags. You get your 60 replacement tags, that's it!
194	I think that all entrances, including under 18 years, to the lobster business should have to go through the exit ratio for their zone. The ratios could be reduced from (illegible) 5:1 to 3:1 or 2:1 and there would be more reduction than there is now. I think that the idea of closed seasons should be explored, too.
195	Between fuel, bait, safety regulations, the whales, etc., fishing is becoming a part-time business and our traditions are slowly disappearing from the coast! (Oh, I forgot to include prices for our product, especially shrimp!)
196	It seems costs go up for everything but lobsters. This is the underlying problem without an easy solution. Fishermen must not price themselves out of existence, but gross income doesn't keep up with outlay.
197	Eliminate time fished: December - May
198	I think if a person is eligible for a Maine lobster and crab license, they should own the license for life until they would like to sell it, and also have it so they would pay a renewal fee annually. I think this would solve a lot of these problems.
199	My biggest concern is the children of us few real lobstermen families, what will they do? The state continues to give out licenses to people who have no family ties to our occupation, crowding the old timers and their children out of our areas, which should be for our children.
200	I feel the resource is decreasing from offshore dragging and not protecting seed lobsters and offshore fishery. Inshore = more traps = more bait = more lobsters fed and produced. Inshore fine/offshore mess

201	I already reduced my traps by 50% (1,600 to 800), while I was told it was to reduce traps. Leave anybody that already decreased alone and focus on the new people that made the increase in traps. You could also reduce effort by eliminating the second stern man . Also, no fishing on Saturdays and Sundays, June through October. No fishing after 4:00pm year round. That would help reduce enforcement time too. Save fuel.
202	Enough with the crying. Like with any business, there are winners and there are losers. There are more lobsters now than ever. Anyone who operates like a business, watching the over head, should do ok. If a kid wants to go fishing when he gets done with school, let him. He shouldn't have to wait for 5 of us to die before he can!
203	A trap limit of 600 for everyone. Some of them are fishing more than 800. Cut them back to 600. Enforce the law.
204	The present delay in issuing tags is unacceptable. I have been waiting 7 weeks for my 2008 tags and have not received them yet.
205	Lobster fishing is for commercial, not part timers. In our zone, we are hurt by them. A limit is needed by reducing traps.
206	I've cut back enough so you could let more people into the fishery. It is my invested right to go fishing and all the government does is try to put us out of business.
207	I think that when the fishermen were asked to vote on how many new licenses to allow in for the amount going out that our beloved commissioner chose to ignore what the fishermen said. That being said, I don't know why I or anybody else who has invested in this fishery expecting to fish a certain number of traps should have to give any up because of the blunders of state officials. As far as taking away tags and licenses not being used, I can't think of a better way to increase fishing pressure because people will start using them if there is a threat of having them taken. My son is currently doing his apprentice log books, and I think that he deserves the chance to go lobstering if he wants, as he would be a sixth generation fisherman. He has a right to, in my book. If there is a freeze on licenses, would I have a chance to give him mine? I think that some of these options create a lot of questions that need to be answered before there is any thought of implementing new laws. P.S. Hire a new commissioner, it definitely couldn't hurt.
208	There should be state wide limit of 600. There shouldn't be any 5 trap licenses. That would reduce effort on lobster, plus the taking of short lobsters. There have been several caught in our area.
209	Fishing in Zone E (600 traps). It would be very difficult to be able to make a living with less traps. If there is going to be a trap reduction, target the rest of the state zones who are already at 800 and make sure there are safe guards in place so that those traps taken out don't end up back in the water with someone else's tags (like what happened last time).
210	Latent tags and licenses: mainly people that are on their way out but are afraid to jump. Stirring the issue will strengthen their decision to stay. Slow down the active ones to decrease the effort and hopefully increase price. If you look at the buy outs like the drag outs had but cant afford it, look at doing it over a period of a few years.
211	I fish Zone Z - 600 limit
212	Trap reduction is not going to solve anything. Expenses and bottom line is the problem, add a little whale issue in there and you have it! The lobsters have to eat and we are feeding them. There needs to be some discussion on the well being of this industry. Trap reduction is not the answer. This is a state thing not a federal thing. Imagine the state of Maine with no lobster fishermen. Somehow we've got to figure it out. But, right now, I don't know what the answer is.
213	Get rid of latent licenses. Allow remaining license holders to transfer/sell their license. This ensures new entries a way in and older fishermen an exit.
214	Do away with Zone Lines. You can have zones. You do not need the lines for enforcement.
215	First thing you should do is do away with recreational licenses. That alone would do away with a lot of traps. Why should fishermen that make their living from lobstering have to give up their livelihood. If these people can afford 2 or 3 houses, they can buy lobsters. I don't think you should put a freeze on licenses because you have young people that went to go lobstering. I think you should be able to hand down your licenses to someone in your family. The way it is now, you can't do that. When these laws were made, you said you could, but that isn't the way it is. The only ones I see that made out was the big fishermen. they made sure that their stern man got a license. The big fishermen set their stern men up with a boat and traps.
216	Do away with recreational licenses. That percentage does not get fibbed on.
217	No more 5 trap licenses. Lower teenage entry because 50% of them don't tend to their gear.
218	The only problem with the lobster catch in the past season was due to the 2 storms we had the prior spring and fall. We walked the shore of the islands and saw a lot of dead lobsters on the shore.
219	I fish only within the 3 mile limit and only seasonally. Herring is the best bait fish and the future of the supply is of great concern.

220	I have fished for lobsters full time for 27 years but have had traps out since I was 5 years old. I am an 8th generation fisherman from my island. I feel we would catch the same amount of lobsters with less traps. We would keep more money and be much more efficient with less traps people would have to fish them. Keep student licenses, we need the next generation!
221	The last time the state imposed a trap limit 10 years ago, the industry saw a significant build up in gear. I hope the state finally gets it right. I fear that the states poor handling of effort coupled with a cynical down turn in the lobster harvest and increased expenses of bait and fuel is the perfect storm of bad news for the fishery. I expect it will get ugly before it gets better.
222	I feel a closed season is important with trap reduction.
223	I don't think the whale plan should extend inshore of the 3 mile limit.
224	We need a reduction of traps in our zone and to many part time lobstermen that hold two and three jobs.
225	Zone E should be at the 800 trap limit.
226	Monhegan trap density study proves what some of us would admit all along. There are too many traps using too much bait and fuel.
227	I'm a little concerned about the number of non-commercial fishermen that are popping up. I think it is a good idea in theory, but the number of traps and how they are fished could start being more of a problem than cracking down on the guys making a living.
228	I am a full time, year round fisherman. It takes 12 months with 800 traps to provide for my family. Already, I reduced traps to come down to 800. In the past, I fished 1,200+. There was no reduction of effort in my area when I removed 400+ traps. I already did my part with no benefit! Reduce effort through attrition or by limiting part timers with another source of income.
229	A large amount of traps are not necessary to catching a lot lobsters. You just need a lot of lobsters.
230	If you have a stern man that holds a lobster license and the owner/operator hold a license, he can buy another boat and fish double the limit. While I only get to fish the limit. This is already happening where I fish and there are several more fishermen getting ready to do this. So where does those leave myself and others whose stern men are just that, stern men.
231	Freeze all licenses for 2 years, with a 400 trap limit and let it work itself out. Then take a good look at it after 2 years. The if effort has really dropped let the kids in the want to go fishing, not retired people.
232	I believe if we fished half the traps that we are fishing now, within very few years, we would be catching the same amount of lobsters with half the expense. All we are doing now is making the trap shops rich.
233	Big boats coming inside into rivers and upper bays, some with three-men crews. Some people fishing 1,400 traps out of as many as three boats.
234	The only reason I don't support less traps is because my son and I fish out of the same boat. If the trap limit was reduced, we wouldn't be able to both make a living. We double tag all 800 traps.
235	Traps need to be reduced to 600. A lower trap limit (less than 600) would eliminate the need of a stern man and increase the hazard with a single fisherman aboard the boat.
236	License holders who get out of the business should be able to sell their licenses or pass it on to a relative or friend, that way we could recoup some of our money and help family members get started in the business.
237	Fuel prices are rising. It would be nice to be able to use float rope on trailer traps. The whale rule costs a lot of money.
238	If you want to lower the amount of traps by 10%, only send 800 tags. The extra 80 are being fished. Also owner operator, which you refuse to do, would eliminate people fishing more than one license; i.e., having 2 or 3 boats and trap limits and having someone with a license aboard the boat.
239	I think when urchin season comes around, the draggers and divers should have their traps up. Do one thing at a time. It would cut down on wet storage. Some fishermen are fishing an outside gang and during shedder season.
240	By making it very difficult to fish below the exemption line. I expect a huge increase in effort north of the line. Lots of problems.
241	There are fishermen buying licenses and tags but are not fishing.
242	The area I fish is going to be devastated, with the natural buoy (illegible) gear lose will be very high.
243	I don't think there is any need for ALWTRP in Maine waters. I would support a closed season outside the 50 fathom edge; July, August, and September. I would support a trap reduction, but leave the rope alone.
244	3 major violations (i.e. short lobsters, V - notch lobsters, molesting gear, etc.) and the state of Maine should take your license, boat and gear. Can't ever fish again!

245	Reduce traps inside the 3 mile limit by 10%. Leave the trap limit in federal waters as is.
246	We have not let any of the regulations we have now work!! Give them a chance. Traps will be coming down slowly because of the age of the fishermen. Give the fishermen a chance to make a living.
247	Students should remain students. After that, all things equal. We should not create incentive to leave school. Traps should be fished effectively, not in large numbers. 40 years ago, we fished in spots, we had to know the area and fish each trap. Those days, the fishing was much more interesting, we need to try to be more efficient.
248	Enforce the laws we supported 20 to 40 years ago and the lobster fishermen, who is a legal man, will be a happy fisherman.
249	I feel that the full time fisherman (someone making their living from the ocean - lobster, scallop, urchins, clams, worms, etc) should have 100% allowed traps, since fishing is 100% of their income and the only profession they choose. People who are part time fisherman (school teachers, truck drivers, loggers, etc) should only be allowed a percentage of traps based on their income. If 50% of their income is from something other than the ocean, then they should only be allowed 50% of the allowed traps, not 100%. Reducing traps proportionally is not fair to the full time fishermen. Part time fishermen use fishing to supplement their already existing income. Full time fisherman do not have an existing income from another source, we need 100% of the allowed traps to make our living, we aren't just supplementing it! Many part time fishermen also receive benefits from their existing occupation, such as retirement, health insurance, etc. Full time fisherman have to provide their own health insurance. The price of everything is elevating astronomically! The neutral buoyant rope is more expensive and already causing an additional burden, the cost of diesel fuel, bait, equipment repair and/or replacement is at an all time high. If you keep limiting our traps, how will we make boat payments, mortgage payments, pay for health insurance, heat our homes, etc.? The part timer will manage much better, they have other sources of money. The full time fisherman should not be penalized by having the same trap reduction as a part timer. I am also not in favor of recreational licences trap reduction needs to start there! If they want lobster, let them buy it from the lobsterman.
250	No more under 17 licenses. No more part timers. 1 license, 1 boat, 1 owner. There are full timers are being pushed out by the people with multiplying licenses. No more licenses for the kids of wives that don't even go on the boat. The right whale rope thing is bulls*** also. You started a trap limit way to high years ago, so don't blame the fishermen. I think everyone should set at the 800, then work from there, not leave trap down and add more. Get everyone at 800, then work from there.
251	I believe the lobster industry is being over fished. I don't believe you should have the extra tags. They are being fished on traps, not on lost tags.
252	The problem with changing the trap limit is that when a person is reduced, he is not actually reduced. He just puts the traps into someone else's name. Such as setting up his stern man who has a license. Another thing would be to stop allowing a person to fish 880 traps by issuing 80 extra tags up front.
253	My greatest concern is the regulations concerning right whale issues and what they will mean for us fishermen. I fish on rocky ocean bottom and you cannot fish without float rope as traps will be lost, causing more expense for gear to be replaced. Also, more fishermen will be moving to muddy bottom, causing over fishing and crowded areas of bottom. Concerning reduction in traps: This will limit younger fishermen, making it very difficult for them to remain in the business to make a living and pay for their gear and boats.
254	Before you lower the trap limit, we have to stop the fishermen from owning 2 or 3 boats and fishing 800 traps under their stern mans name. The ALWTRP is destroying the fishermen financially when there are no right whales in our area. Limited entry is destroying the young people in our area. We have no other industry.
255	Every lobsterman should be able to have the full amount of trap tags in their zone, if they have a lobster license.
256	This survey is just a formality. The DMR will do whatever it wishes about the lobster effort. DMR staff members have already stated that if they get a 15% response to a survey, that means 85% non-response is in favor of the given plan.
257	I am fishing in my 55th year starting with 20 traps in a skiff and working up to 800 traps and a 35 glass boat. I have seen good things such as the double gauge meshes, the Vent law and V-Notch law. These laws along with the seed program have all been a good help for the lobster industry with better law enforcement. As years go by, the catch is up and down. We have a healthy amount of lobsters in area A-4, little to fear other than government itself. Government has taken away the privilege to work as we like, for example: 1) The trap limits are not needed in this area. 2) Our (illegible) lobster market with change in the small measure and given the market to Canada. 3) The chance to get a license with a simple request. Now with these changes made for more traps in the water and more fishermen, then we are told "you are over fishing." Saving the whales have caused more expense for the fishermen. The break ways and taking away float rope causing more expense for all of us with the loss of buoys and traps. The poor economy, higher fuel, bait and materials, all at the same time, are making it harder to make ends meet. I am thinking my grandsons are going to be unable to enjoy the fishing business as I have.

258	The reason the 28% reduction in weight for the lobster fishermen catch was the reduction in select lobsters (2 - 4 pounds). The rope reduction could be disastrous because on mountainous bottom, it only lasts 2 years. My son turned in 1,000lbs at \$1,400 and replaced it with \$3,500 worth of neutrally buoyant rope. The federal government has too much control and is destroying the lobster industry by overregulation. The DMR is extorting money by forcing us to pay for licenses we don't need. The NMFS is creating a right whale hoax, like it did last fall, to make us take up all our traps so the herring fishermen could fish. They have created an "idiocracy", a pack of idiots trying to run a "bureaucracy". They cut off 1,000 traps at night.
259	I don't see any problem with the resource. People should be more reasonable with the way in which they choose to live. We are a spoiled people.
260	The economy will take care of the lobster industry.
261	A fisherman earning 80% of income from lobstering should be allowed more traps. (State 600 traps--fisherman 80%, 700, etc.)
262	I think everything right now is ok, but if they keep messing with the lobstering industry, it will be gone. My message is this: leave it alone.
263	I have fished for 55 years so I know a little bit about it.
264	I have been fishing for 31 years. We have had a better fishery in the last 10 years because of the vents, being able to feed the small ones and letting them go. We have a lot of laws that only hurt the honest person because they are the only ones that will obey it. 800 trap limit is a joke. Only a handful obey it.
265	I feel that a license holder should be able to give or sell their license to any person that they choose, as long as that person is a legal resident and has lived in the U.S.A. all their life.
266	I don't believe fishermen fishing outside all year should come inside and fill the bay with traps during fall fishing then move back outside after fishing is gone, then move back outside and catch more lobsters than inside fishermen can think about.
267	I feel that the state or DMR should control the exit, entry ratio. I don't think the zones councils should.
268	I think you should have 2 tiered licenses or new people getting into the industry should get less traps. All the time, the older full timers keep getting cut back. It's not fair for these guys. Maybe base the amount of traps on 100% income from lobstering or those who make a percentage of their income from lobstering. You have to stop issuing student licenses separate from the entry/exit ratio. The total amount of new licenses issued should not exceed that ratio each year. Students should have top priority over apprentices.
269	After 37 years of fishing, this time now is the hardest to make a living. Please look at the whale restrictions more. I've never seen one in my area.
270	Bait and fuel prices are going to put a lot of fishermen out of business. Lowering the trap limit will put a lot more.
271	As a 3rd generation fisherman, I cannot believe the State of Maine is allowing the removal of float rope from the traps and not taking more interest in the problem with the whale, which I do not believe we as fishermen have. I believe the problem is other sources. We are taking the full brunt and it's very costly. With the price of fuel and bait, I'm not sure how many are going to survive this year.
272	Should enforce trap limit of 800 traps; second, night time hauling in the fall should be looked at.
273	I favor an immediate reduction to 600 traps total per license. Then an incremental reduction to a 400 trap limit inshore (state) waters. 500 inshore with 100 offshore then going to 400 inshore with 200 offshore.
274	Freeze all lobster licenses including students, for at least 5 years. Do not support limiting established fishermen trap limit because they cannot afford to fish fewer traps with their investment.
275	I can't make a living fishing any less traps at the price of bait, fuel, whale rules, and living expenses. If price of doing business keeps increasing, a lot of fishermen will be going out of business.
276	Too many traps and fishermen.
277	Give things a chance to work before going on. A few more lean years will reduce effort.
278	I believe the deal with changing float rope to sink rope to protect the whales is a bunch of bull.
279	I believe you are starting this number 6 question about ten years late. If you would have done it then, there would be a lot less traps in the water. I've gone from 1,800 traps down to 800 and people that used to fish 500 now fish the limit. All this paper is for, it to try and trick people into filling out these half a** questions so it will sound like they want another reduction and I think that's a lot of horse s***.
280	People my age, 72, should not be filling out one of these questionnaires because most of us are falling back and probably would vote for a lower trap limit. This would not be good for young people just getting started that probably would have large payments.

281	The only fair way to decrease effort is to reduce a percentage of licenses based on the most recently issued. For example, 10% of the recently attained licenses state wide should translate into a 10% reduction of traps. Young people should still be able to get into the fishery if they want to. Also, children and grandchildren of a license holder should be able to obtain their license when they retire. Traditionally, this is usually the way young people got into the fishery for ages - it should not change!
282	A dealer should only buy from licensed fishermen. A person caught fishing without a license should be made to pay back all money paid for his catch, not the meager fines that are being levied. I would have no objections to showing my license to my dealer at the start of each season.
283	I do not like the idea of any type of freeze. We need some growth and the ability for our children to have an opportunity to become fishermen.
284	The cost to do business has reached too high a level. We need to fish smarter, meaning less traps, less bait. Our bottom line will increase accordingly.
285	I've already been forced to remove 700. In fairness, I'm waiting for everyone else to remove their 700 to catch up to what I've done already. There is your trap reduction!
286	I don't approve of a school teacher and his wife (who teaches also) to have a license. When one makes \$50,000 a year and the wife makes the same, why do they need to be out there taking lobsters from the fishermen who have to wait a long while for the next year? There are too many people who own filling stations and many other year round businesses who don't need to fish. There is a real need to limit people who can earn money the year around. All of them are hurting this industry. First, they get pleasure licenses and tell us they just want lobsters to eat, the later on they get a bigger boat and fish more traps, and in the end, the trap increase gets higher and they buy bigger boats and catch more lobsters. People who hold good paying jobs should not be allowed to get licenses. That is called greed. Then when school begins, they brag about having it made over a fisherman, because he has to work out in the cold and they can go into school teaching in a nice warm building. If the fishermen didn't have children, they might not have a school teaching job! I can't go into a school in September through June and earn money, so why should others be able to get into this industry? They can fish during the best part of the season, which is not helping out our fishermen at all.
287	With the increase of fuel and bait plus expenses, the whale issue should be put on hold because there has been no harm to whales. Someone must wake up to how the world is. It will impact the lobster industry. Maybe no Sunday fishing year round and no Saturday from June to September, even an hourly time--5 a.m. to 4 p.m., this would also help.
288	Cutting the trap limit along with the high cost of going fishing will kill us.
289	I fish 800 traps (270/270/260). I would favor either trap reduction or inshore/offshore fishing. If the offshore boys stayed offshore, I wouldn't favor trap reduction. The only reason I support trap reduction is that I'm older and wouldn't mind too much if I was younger, I wouldn't support it at all. I think all of these regulations we have been out under are pathetic and a waste of money. I am one of the lucky ones who has to report my catch and all other information on the Harvest Report. I'm Christian and will fill out my report only because I have to. Do you really think others are going to as far as number of traps hauled, depth of water, day set, etc. So there is another useless collection of wasted paper. Mother nature, my friends, not scientific nature!
290	1) Do not eliminate latent effort (tags/licenses). Just figure out how much is latent effort. 2) Increase trap limit to support overhead. 3) How many commercial fishermen fish how many months?
291	We don't need more regulations, all I want to do is go fishing.
292	I favor taking away licenses permanently of those who cut, steal, or haul other peoples traps. These people are the only real problem with the lobster fishery.
293	I've been a lobster fisherman 54 years. I have three sons. I support a trap limit of 600--not one trap less from Eastport to Block Island.
294	Effort reduction does not work! Look at the last 15 years in all fisheries.
295	No limit will work unless you freeze all new licenses. Eliminate 5 trap licenses.
296	When it comes to removing trap percentages, that's not fair because some work for years to get what they got and some can get 800 all at once. If there's a trap limit, it should be for every one. For instance, I was 18 years going from 65 traps to 700.
297	I feel there are too many oversized (3 bedroom traps, 5 footers) traps in the rivers. They should only be used in outside fishing. I feel it's not fair for the little guy to have to fight against these huge traps.
298	I support getting rid of these license holders who don't fish and let someone who needs the fishing job fish at a limited trap number of 600 to all licenses holders.
299	Before we see a trap reduction, something should be done to stop those fishing more than one boat/or fishing 1,600 traps out of one boat, which is happening more that realized.
300	I think if you are retired from another job, you should be allowed half the max amount of tags. Something needs to be done about people fishing way too many traps--more traps than is legal.

301	I'm trying to get out of the lobstering industry, but I can't sell my licenses and I can't sell my traps because nobody has a license. I wish I could sell my license right along with my boat. Too many big boats.
302	If we were allowed to sell our licenses like the fed. you wouldn't have to have any new entries because they could buy boats and licenses and the number would stay the same.
303	Latent effort is difficult to measure, as some of us voluntarily reduce effort for various reasons: health issues, conservation, personal issues, temporary situations. I maintain my scallop license, but am giving the scallops a much needed rest. I should not be eliminated for my conservation sacrifice. I have always believed in serious trap reductions to 300. Catch rates will improve, bait and fuel consumption will be saved. reduced trap densities will reduce gear conflicts.
304	I think we need to give the new tag out program (5 years) a chance to work with the average age of lobstermen, being 50 something, in 10 years with the tag out program. There will be a substantial reduction in traps and fishermen.
305	Radicalizing and tunnel vision from NMFS and conservation groups is a fascist mentality. I believe they want to corporatize the lobstering industry, drive the local people away from the coast so the rich recreational boaters and non-boaters can buy up all the waterfront real estate. Democracy in America is slipping away from and for the people.
306	Need to stop giving licenses out before we reduce traps.
307	I think the whole whale thing is stupid. It's not the lobstermen hurting the whales, it's cruise ships, offshore tankers, and barges. I have fished for 25 - 26 years and don't even know what a right whale looks like. Never seen one anywhere I've fished.
308	The license entry into Zone B is too restrictive. I have a young friend, a former stern man age 23 who has been fishing full time since 2001, had completed his apprenticeship by the end of 2003 and has been on a waiting list since, fishing full-time with his uncle. He fished with a student license as well, as far as it would go, but no longer. The rules have changed on him; younger applicants have moved ahead on the list, and still no license after a seven (7) year process and more than four (4) years and counting on the waiting list. I suggest this process be changed before a lawsuit changes it. It has nothing to do with conservation and nothing to do with safety. Furthermore, we need to assume that young people can stay and live on these offshore islands (that is the case here) and in coastal communities as well. Latent effort (unused tags/licenses) should be considered in the formula but this right not be eliminated. Let a man keep his license as long as he wants.
309	Economics will dictate the number of traps in the water. This spring, I already see fewer traps in the water due to people leaving the fishery.
310	To reduce the traps from 800 top 600 can only help. As for tags, if a few fishermen buy the full amount but only use part, that's a win situation for DMR because of the money paid for the tags. The float rope change hurt the bay fishermen because a number of fishermen that only set 100 - 300 inside, now are forced to move all gear inside because of the high cost of redoing their gear.
311	In my area, there are a lot of fishermen fishing 2 boats. Many are finding a person with a license, buying another boat and fishing 1,600 traps. I feel that if 2 licensed fishermen are in the same boat, all traps should be double tagged. This would reduce the number considerably. I also think that the size of lobster traps should be decreased. Some are fishing huge traps in water where many people are small boat fishermen. This creates a safety hazard because if entangled, a person could be pulled over board. I also think that any person with a federal fisheries permit should only be allowed to fish half of his traps inside the 3 mile line.
312	There are far more traps in the water now than before any trap limits were implemented. A few fishermen with high numbers reduced, while many others built up to the limit. Higher limits or no limit would likely work better than the current limits. 2 people fishing 1,000 or 1,200 traps from 1 boat would be better than the same 2 alternating days in each others boat with 800 traps each.
313	Too many part timers and people with other jobs in the fishing business.
314	1 license
315	Your first concern should be to help the fishermen with all of the whale regulations. I see that as changing our way of life as lobstermen more than anything.
316	One licensed fisherman per boat. If two licensed fishermen in one boat, the traps must be double tagged.
317	Eliminate the loopholes which allow fishermen to fish double gangs with student licenses. Remove favoritism by wardens as to who they keep watch over. Enforce the laws across the board before creating more.
318	All the whale stuff doesn't make sense to me. I fish in 60 - 100 feet and I have never seen a whale. The cost is too much for the small fishermen or the big fishermen.

319	It really matters what you do. The "true" lobstermen doesn't stand a chance. The minute you can catch a lobster, everyone is right there with you. If you hold a Maine license, you should be able to do anything you want to the ocean. If you are a true fisherman, you should be fishing your traps 9 months a year. these people that are supposed to be lobstermen go sea egging, dragging, etc. Everyone should be able to. When the lobsters come on, everyone fishes. In the hard times, only the true fishermen fish. Some of these guys should have the same opportunities as the rest of us. Everyone should be equal.
320	If you remove the latent licenses, you will count them as out of the fishery and then add more licenses with tags that will be put into the water. This will add a lot of traps without you thinking it does.
321	I feel full time lobster fishermen should be left alone. If someone wants to be an electrician or carpenter, then that's their choice, but I'm a lobsterman. I should be left alone. Full time fishermen have built this industry and we should be the ones to benefit from it. We have enough laws on the books now and if they were followed and enforced, then it would take care of any problems we face. Fuel and bait are expensive, but if you're fishing full time, then you should be able to make up the difference. Tying my hands behind me is not going to help me make a living.
322	What needs to be done is for every license you hold you loose 200 traps. And if you hold a sea urchin license you do not fish any lobster traps. That is a protected industry for a hand full of greedy fishermen.
323	Cut the guys back that are fishing more than 800 traps. There are 3 fishermen in my area running 2 boats each because they have more than 800 traps. If they want to run 2 boats, let them have 400 traps per boat. Sometimes they use only 1 boat and set off and take up all of the traps, 800 and over. The wardens know who they are, reduce them and leave the legal guys alone.
324	With the price of oil so high, the fishermen are going to be suffering financially.
325	If big business was kept out of the lobster business, there would be a lot less trouble.
326	People will leave the industry on their own of they are just making money. The real fishermen will stay and help the supply of lobsters on the market. Too much money spent on people who study the lobster business.
327	I feel the area I fish in is way over fished. Fisherman fishing 800 traps will put 400 in the bay and 400 offshore when the best of the fishing is over in the bay. They will take their 400 and leave.
328	Success has always come from hard work, determination, and perseverance in the fishing industry. Just how many times do you feel that you need to ask the same questions - is it in order to get the answers that you want?
329	If you ask a hundred fishermen their opinion on the industry, you will get a hundred different answers. Lobstering runs in cycles. If it is good, everyone gets into it. If it is bad, a lot will drop out. Some of the biggest fishermen want more than their share. My opinion is whether you have a hundred traps, or a thousand traps, don't pass legislation favoring one over the other.
330	Effort reduction must address part time/full time issues. People who participate in the fishery without an incentive to follow the rules have damaged the fishery for years. Without a serious discussion of this issue, how could a full time lobsterman support further trap reduction?
331	I feel the lobster industry is very healthy. The conservation groups are doing more harm than good with all the new rules they are coming up with. Just leave it alone, lobstering will take care of itself.
332	You have already cut our trap numbers once. Traps are not effort. Fishermen are effort. Larger, faster boats are more effort. 2, 3, and 4 fishermen on one boat is effort. You need a healthy number of traps to fish effectively and efficiently. I have heard from several sources, there are fishermen running boats who are not making payments on these boats. The banks don't want the boats. This is not good for the fishery. Survival of the fittest was the path chosen by Maine's fishermen, but then the bank will not repossess the boat? If the number of fishermen was cut, I might be able to fish less traps. Current numbers of fishermen need 800 traps. I used to fish a much smaller number of traps, but there were no fishermen (2 in my area). Today, there are so many, I don't know who they are or how many there are. I would support: federal permit 400 tags, state permit 400 tags, and freeze tags at current levels. No fisherman could fish more than 400 in state waters. Federal permit holders could fish all 800 in federal waters if he chose to.
333	I don't think there should be any trap trawls within a mile from the beach. This area should be left to the small fishermen because they get harassed and the trawl fishermen set out over the top of you. If you want conservation, make the fishery single trap: no pairs, no trawls.
334	I support freedom and the right to live. I am a patriot. I support raising lobsters by the millions. "You must seed in order to harvest". It's an easy fix if looking at it with open eyes.
335	I think trap tags should be made in the state of Maine, not some other state.
336	No trawls inside the 3 mile line.

337	I think the whale reduction inside the 3 mile line is a waste of time and a lot of expense to the lobster fishermen and I believe a reduction to 600 traps would make us fish more efficiently and cut expenses.
338	I think we need to limit traps and not increase the number of lobstermen.
339	My opinion on keeping the fishing industry strong is for a commercial fisherman to make at least 95% of his yearly income from commercial fishing. That would eliminate those who have 2 or 3 other jobs onshore.
340	In my opinion a 450 trap limit is necessary to alleviate excess fuel consumption. To reduce the amount of bait (herring and alewives) the lobsters are going to feed regardless of the number of traps in the water. People don't have the money for lobsters, and with a large catch, we'll have to give them away. This industry is going to see many boats for sale, or worse, repossessed.
341	I don't think that any young person should be able to get a license.
342	A licensed lobsterman should be allowed to fish as hard and they want. A hard worker should not be trampled down by state employees. If a smart lobsterman - independent businessman - can be left alone he will succeed, the less dedicated will find other employment. Do not suffocate those who want to work hard and are willing to sacrifice for their success. If you want less traps in the water, get rid of the 5 trap recreational license. They just steal from the professional lobsterman.
343	Do away with student licenses. Due to the fact they haul other people's trap, when the honest fishermen have gone home. I also feel that anyone who fishes should be paid by check, not half cash and half a small check, so they don't have to file on what they really make. I fish with my dad and I fish a few for myself for extra money to pay winter bills ahead. I wish the marine wardens would start doing their jobs. We have gear hauled everyday. We have called numerous times, but nothing gets done. No one has ever been caught because the wardens don't care, they are living off state funding. I fish 6 months out of the year and that's all I do. I will go on my own when my dad gets done. This year is his last year. I hope my honest opinion matters.
344	I fish between 4 and 5 months out of a year and that is what I do for a living. I say reduce the traps on people who have a pocket full of licenses and the ones who are fishing while getting disabled pensions. I wish the state would do something about people selling for cash money! I pay on everything I make!
345	I feel cutting back on 800 traps to 500 traps would, in fact, aid in numerous ways in the population of lobsters.
346	Why make laws or changes that are not enforced. Nobody pays any attention to trap limits or 30-day wet storages. There were several boats in our harbor that left most of their gear--trawls--out all winter and never left the mooring from December to April.
347	Keep in mind bait and fuel prices are up and the price of lobster is down. It won't take many more restrictions and some of us may not be in business next year. Bottom line is the fishery is not broken yet. So don't try to fix it!
348	Pick your industry.
349	The state won't have to do a thing to conserve the lobster industry, the price of fuel, rope and other supplies has already been putting us out of business. You will be seeing people getting out of the fishery everyday who can't afford to fish. I'm glad I'm as old as I am. It's a dying business. I have tried 10 coils of your famous neutrally buoyant rope on then North Shores and out around Machias Seal Island. 5 coils were completely destroyed at \$130 a coil. Tell me if we are going to stay in business.
350	Rope costs too much and doesn't hold up. Shoot the whales. I would like to see the trap tags be \$1 and use the extra .60 cents to fund a buy back in each zone (not state wide).
351	I feel the industry with its present regulations will take care of itself. The economy and price of lobster will significantly reduce effort in the next few years. I also believe Maine veterans wanting to go fishing should have that privilege. Enforce existing regulations, the rest will take care of itself.
352	The economics will fix it.
353	I believe that there should be a time limit, instead of a trap limit. It would be easier to enforce and cut down on trap molestation "pirates".
354	I'd like to extend an open invitation to anyone employed behind the desk (state and federal) making rules and regulations to "fix" the mess they created to come aboard my boat in the middle of November to see what work is like. Don't try to fix something that's not broken! You've already tried to do that and look what you've done! I'd like to make it mandatory for everyone of you to come experience this way of life. If you fix this like you've fixed the urchin industry, you'll be feeding us before long. Leave it alone!
355	Leave it the way it is and see what will happen in the next 2 years.
356	Not if it would be lowering the trap limit.

357	The state should be enforcing the laws in place and let the feds enforce the ALWTRP. I feel the industry is basically healthy. There was much less gear in the water before the trap limit was ever established. I firmly believe that if it isn't broken, don't fix it.
358	Don't you people think you've done enough harm? We had far less traps and fishermen before you put on your trap and license limits. Leave things alone. You clearly don't understand the fishery or its cycles. You don't listen to those who do, so just leave it be.
359	Fly over these bays and take pictures of all of the buoys. Some have 2 traps on them. Do it in July and August.
360	My concern is that between DMR and NMFS that in a few years we will be regulated out of our way of life. This is not just a (job) to us! This industry has always had its ups and downs. The life-time fisherman have, in my opinion, been very good stewards of this industry. There are four generations of lobster fisherman in my family.
361	I do not know if the number of traps is the problem or if the decrease in lobster catch is due to natural causes. I really do not feel qualified to make that decision. I do know that high bait and fuel costs are hurting us all.
362	Not to let newcomers in
363	Enough people are hauling other peoples gear in this zone at 800. What would happen with less? It's awful how many people haul other peoples gear in this area and there is nothing that can be done about it. If we go less traps, it's going to be worse.
364	Also believe we should be allowed to sell our licenses because we've paid for them each year - in my case over 50 - It has been the only business I've ever had - Where is the fairness?
365	Penalties for fishing violations need to be much more severe. There is no excuse for the large numbers of short or V-notched lobsters we see reported, but with only a small fine. More than one or two a day, take the license!
366	If you start taking our traps away, it is the worst thing that you can do! The decline in total lobster catches over the past 4 years coincides directly with the 15/16 vents. Most fishermen have 3 of these per trap. We are losing tons and tons of small 1 1/4 lobsters. They are swimming in and swimming out. Please don't reduce our traps below 800. The experiments on Monhegan Island, where they cut the number of traps in half, was a farce! They cut the number of traps from 600 to 300, but they changed the season from December - March to September - January. Any fisherman with a brain can see that you can catch more lobsters from 50 traps in September than with 600 in February. Because September, October, and November are when lobsters are at there most plentiful! Plus the weather is better for more days at sea. The lobster resource is there and strong, but what is going to and is killing us is the high prices of bait and fuel! The whale regulations will be the final straw that breaks the camel's back. So, no matter how many of our traps you take from us, it will not fix these problems. Things are bleak. I've been in this business since 1967. I've seen good times to come and go, I've seen ups and downs, but never to the point of utter collapse like it is now due in part to over regulation. We need a shot in the arm now. Reduce the vent size back to 1 3/4 now, this year! That will help some. The lobsters are out there, but we're losing them. But as far as reduction in traps? We will after this year because of the failure of fishermen one after the other, not being able to pay their boat payments. We'll have a trap limit then, the likes of which this state has never seen. Tens of thousands of traps will be taken out of the water because of these catastrophic failures and 800 of them will be mine. Because of the whale regulations, the cost of bait and fuel and the large vents!
367	I fish in the Swan's Island trap zone. Maybe you have heard of it. I would like to see a 400 trap limit state wide. With the price of bait and fuel, you would make more money in the long run. Thank you.
368	You should not eliminate latent effort tags/licenses because that brings more money into the state to help pay for enforcement and conservation.
369	I have no opinion on the last 5 questions because our legislators have proven ineffective in implementing anything we have attempted for effort reduction. It has all been a failure and a waste of good peoples time. Our governor appointed commissioner has been an ineffective advocate of our conservation efforts.
370	I fish Zone B and in the last 5 years, the traps have more than doubled. Something must be done before it's too late. Zone C fishing Zone B is a major problem.
371	Leave business alone and it will solve itself. We know how to fish and you are spending too much money on surveys telling us how to do what we have been successfully doing for hundreds of years. Too many laws. I fish full time at 72 years old. I have fished for more than 50 years.
372	Have you given any thought to how many trees and birds you displaced using all the paper for these surveys? Please leave industry alone. Too much crap to deal with after fishing and baiting up for 12 hours a day. Need a full time legal aid to get paper work done.
373	If the tag limit goes down, there will be more wrong doing. People will haul others gear, not just their own. Leave the limit of tags the same.
374	I feel anyone with a 25 foot boat or under should only fish within the 3 mile limit all over. The 25 foot boats should be outside the 3 mile limit here in our harbor. The big boats are cutting off traps as they don't have cages on.

- 375 I have fished full time for 34 years. The industry is healthy partly due to the amount of traps fished. Simply put, I think that we provide feeding stations (traps) for lobsters. We have the best conservation laws and the vast majority of fishermen care about the future. I have participated in the build up and witnessed the increase in lobsters. The best thing you could do for the industry is concentrate every effort and resource available to push the ALWTRP line off at least 50 fathom curve, where there may actually be a whale. I think the imaginary line is so far inside that many will stay inside of it knowing that the gear loss will be too great outside without floating rope. This will put more pressure on the inside fishery and create more congestion. this is my opinion but it reflects the views of most lobstermen in my area (Eastern Hancock County).
- 376 600 trap limit is the one thing that will help us all.
- 377 We could support a limit of 600 maybe lower but would have to freeze entry for this to work. So, say in my harbor, when one retires or gets done, one can come in from the list. We also have to look at income from license holders to see if they are earning their income from lobstering or are in a double income situation, where they are just taking from the resource.
- 378 I feel that there should be 2 types of licenses. Full time commercial and part time skimmers licenses. Full time - 800 tags. Part time - 200 tags. A person would get 800 tags is 100% of his income came from fishing. 200 tags of you didn't make 100% from fishing. This would reduce the number of traps being fished without taking more from full time fishermen. Also, I am sick and tired of letting the crooks in this business continue to keep the law. Whatever happened to the 3 strikes you're out program the commercial came up with years ago? We have a real good group of Marine Patrol officers working 24/7 trying to catch these people and when it's time to go to court they get a slap on the hand for it. I am a honest and hardworking fisherman and frankly I'm getting real tired of this! We have a lot of good laws on the books, seems to me the state of Maine should start using them.
- 379 Reduce winter/spring fishing. Have the season start in July and go through December.
- 380 I think a tiered license system might help. We have people with full time jobs fishing 700 - 800 traps in the summer and fall. People who used to fish 200 - 300 now have a limit. I understand their side, their fishery has been wiped out (urchin divers, scallopers, etc.) and they need to make a living, but it has gotten very crowded and mean.
- 381 I believe the Monhegan experiment should be tried in other areas of the state or state wide. Prior to the increase in landings in the early 1990's and before the trap limits, the economics of doing business somewhat controlled entry. I don't want to say history will repeat itself, but I believe we are in the beginning of that happening again. The industry has changed with the increased catches over the last 15 years. Only a small percent of lobstermen are now full time anymore. If they worked full time at it, they would make a reasonable living. If they dabble in it from June 1st to November 1st, like most in the harbors in my area, they don't deserve to be bailed out. In the last 15 years, many have gotten into the business because they could see the opportunity to make \$40,000 - \$70,000 per year or more working "part time" (6 months out of the year). I see these fishermen set traps in the spring after having 5 months off and not even have painted their buoys. These are not fishermen! To me the latent and under used licenses are not the problem. These are not traps in the water. If the amount of traps are reduced state wide and enforced, the fishermen who really love the job and work will find a way to make an exceptional living and fish year round, and those who only want to fish a lot of traps for a few months and get the gravy will get out of the business. The Monhegan fishermen are a good example of this situation.
- 382 The cost and far reaching effects of ALWTRP are foremost on the minds of every fisherman I know. How did we get this far down the canal without this situation being stopped in its tracks? Stand up for our way of life!
- 383 If the ban on floating rope is allowed to stand, we'll be out of business anyway. The bottom is too hard in Eastern Maine. I would be willing to cut back traps if I could keep using float rope!
- 384 Young people should be allowed into the business. The commissioner should take the licenses of people caught with more that 10 shorts or 2 mutilated lobster for at least two years.
- 385 Whale reduction plan is insane. Rope still goes from buoy down to traps. Large boats like cruise ships, tankers, etc kill whales. Lobstermen, whales best friend.
- 386 Sink rope will not affect saving whales. Financially, the cost of this will be devastating to the lobstermen. This sink rope is an unsafe product because it will not run freely from the boat when traps are set and large amounts of gear will be on the bottom due to the changing of this type of rope. I do not believe that whales are bottom feeders. I believe that the whale rope rule is the greatest problem facing the Maine lobster industry at this time and can be devastation to the industry.
- 387 The tag exit ratio should help in this matter, however, our largest influx in traps is from student licenses, students converting to class I and II licenses, and adults fishing with or without students on board using their traps and tags. For enforcement purposes, students' buoys should be obviously distinguishable from other fishermen's and fished out of a separate boat. Eliminating latent effort would only force these people to put those traps into the water.

388	If there is a trap limit, it should be for all and not some. Limit the days fished, fish 5 days a week, take Saturday and Sunday away. Take away the estate tags because some are fishing all the tags instead of using the extra tags for lost traps. Many things can be done. That is common sense decisions.
389	Why put a trap limit (reduction) when you don't have enough law enforcement and don't enforce the limit now, as there are many fishermen illegally fishing 1,000+. It only hurts honest fishermen who are in the industry.
390	I am all for a trap limit, but don't keep issuing new licenses. I fish in Zone C, wide open, thanks to Ted Ames, Dick Bridge and the offshore island. If they don't want any restrictions, let them be in Zone C. Move line to east side Isle Haut for Zone B.
391	Even though someone fishes 500 traps and not 800, doesn't mean he can make a living with a certain percent of the 500. Why limit someone who already has set his own limit. Don't freeze licenses, my son wants to fish! Everybody who holds a lobster license should be entitled to the same number of tags. They all hold the same license with the same rules and regulations.
392	Have the biologists made any effort to check what effect the whale watching has on the whale mating season? I have been fishing for 50 years and I have yet to see any mammals in my equipment.
393	I think you people need to work harder for us fishermen, than against. I feel like you people work for the whale people, instead of the fishermen. It's not enough that we have all the new laws on us, now you guys want to make more. With bait and fuel, why not put some more s*** on the fishermen?
394	Taking away our floating rope is going to put us out of business, more than exempt lines out to the 50 fathom edge where it might help. Taking away traps from 800 to 600 - 400 will eliminate stern men. Stern men that have a license will get a boat and set traps until they reach the limit.
395	If you have a trap reduction, do it 50 traps per year for 4 years.
396	I have fished lobsters for more than 30 years, 12 months a year, inside the 3 mile line. Leave the 3 mile line as a whale line not this imaginary line that someone dreamt up alone. The 3 mile line is on every map and chart. The federal permit holders are out there where the whales are, This line that someone drew outside land, but inside the 3 mile line is, in my opinion, crazy! There are no whales inside the 3 miles line in my area. As far as a trap reduction, it will only hurt the business and will most likely put fishermen at risk and people will go alone, most likely folk will die because they will be alone. I know this will not change anything, but I think about fishermen instead of whales for a change.
397	I support a trap limit of 400 traps fished inside the exemption line and 800 overall trap limit. I believe that Zone C should have closed entry and that recreational licenses should be eliminated! There are a lot of small lobsters in our area. The future looks good.
398	I think that the basic rules on size and reproduction which are enforceable and effective have helped to keep lobstering viable. Any new laws or policies that affect entry on trap numbers must be comprehensive or they will only further confuse the current status quo.
399	Repeal 75% of regulations. Stop making unnecessary ones. I'm 80 years old and have seen lobsters go up and down in that time. There's nothing new about what's going on today.
400	I think that you need to look at part timers. Why should I take a reduction? I fish 100% of the time and I need 800 traps to make a living. I understand the fisheries, better than someone that only fishes in the summer time when anyone can catch a lobster. I make my living from lobstering all the time. They choose to do something else when the weather gets bad. Fishing drops off, but I keep going. So, I should have 800 traps because that's all I do! Give me my license so I can sell it to my family or someone that I know deserves it. If you close it, no more licenses, no more tags, that license is sold with those tags.
401	I feel that questions 1 - 4 are fair, but questions 5 - 10 are leading. You're looking for certain answers. I'm in Zone C and we still let the kids in, but they take up room too, and they have better boats and traps than us old fellows. Zone C doesn't want to close, but parts of the zone do. The price of fuel is unbelievable, and with the bait, there is no room for boat payments. Let this thing settle out, they're crying, but the way it works, if they're not making the money, they'll do something else. The idea of using the exit/entry ratio on tags instead of licenses is a very good one. This would be a better representation of what is actually going out and then back in to the fishery. The proposition of trap reduction is very sensitive for most fishermen. If the state told us that new licenses would stop being issued and tags would immediately be frozen (no more buildup), than I think you would find more support for reduction from the full-time fishermen.
402	3 out 1 in. Fish less traps. There's more lobsters on the bottom, I think after a year, catch same amount or maybe even more.
403	I would favor eliminating part time fisherman that have salaried jobs else where! If there 1040's don't show income of 8-% from fishing, give them a recreation license, 5 traps.
404	Leave it alone! You have already messed with it once.
405	Everything the state has touches gets screwed up. Let things settle out by themselves. My grandson has a latent license, he fishes with me. What would happen when I retire? You are asking the wrong questions!

406	I fish Zone C which is still open to new fishermen. We are seeing a major increase in effort. My total last year decreases 25% because of more people fishing. I am against lowering the trap limit for people who make 100% of their income from lobstering, then let every part timer get a license. The full time lobstermen in Zone C are going to have a hard time
407	I have always believed that the efforts by the state to limit effort have backfired. We have had way too many traps in the water since the mid-1990's. The LAC should look at areas like Swan's Island that have established limits if our one remaining fishery is going to survive.
408	Leave what's left of the fishery alone. Every time you try to fix something, you royally screw something else up. We have taken a financial beating with whale rope, trap limits, increased, vent sizes, confusion on what a V-notch really is, gauge increases, more restrictive rules taking effect, herring soppy restrictions, etc. Leave me the h*** alone.
409	We should not depend on other countries when we have a good supply of herring in our waters (illegible).It will have lasting effects on our industry.
410	There is no sense to limit traps without freezing entry.
411	Get the part timers out of it. The ones who fish during the best lobstering that take away from the lobster fishermen. If you make your living from the water, you should be able to do so in all the fisheries. If you have another occupation, you shouldn't be allowed to lobster.
412	There are a lot of lobster licenses not being used and I think they should not be renewed. 1,400 traps, the most I ever fished and I don't think I should have to cut back as it is stated in number 6.
413	You people don't listen to the fishermen. No one was in favor of log books, but you did it just the same. So, I don't respond to questionnaires. It's just a matter of time (maybe 10 years?) and we are going to be out of business.
414	Never be like it was. It's not a good picture. Whale s*** is going to hurt plus it's bulls***.
415	Leave people alone and let them make their own decisions on how they will fish.
416	If you cut trap limits too low, nobody makes a living. Expenses are yearly, fishing for profit is only a few months. Leave trap limit (800).
417	One thing that bothers me the most is people who attained licenses in Zone A when it was still open, are still fishing more of their traps in Zone B, without enforcement on the issues. Why?
418	The seriousness of this situation doesn't need to be studied much longer. What if we lose another 20%+ this year?
419	I fish Swan's Island and we have been way down below the rest of the state for 25 years. We cannot deal with any less traps then we fish now. We have been the guinea pigs for the state for years. If the trap limit goes down state wide, I think Swan's Island should be left alone.
420	Zone B6 is where I fish the limit is low enough unless we are all closer to the same number.
421	There needs to be less traps in the water. Spring fishing is at least a break even affair because most legal size lobsters are caught the fall before because of so many traps. From September on almost every pan is tangled because of trap density. If there isn't going to be some kind of license restriction then a lower trap limit will be useless. We learned that from the last trap limit.
422	If 80% of the income is not made on the water, those traps should be eliminated.
423	The State of Maine should not allow night hauling of lobster traps.
424	Take away the replacement tags. Most people fish them as if they are part of the limit. Make sure the person who ordered tags is the one fishing them.
425	400 traps will be enough, but you still have those few people who will always fish 1,200 - 1,500. Nothing is ever done about it. If everyone was honest and fished 400, you would be able to move gear where there was nobody. But now, everywhere is filled up.
426	I have been fishing for more than 50 years and ever since the trap tag law, the business has gone down hill. So, I don't see how anymore laws you people pass will help anything. You want, you get, you will not listen to anything us fishermen say.
427	I think the ALWTRP is ridiculous.
428	All young fishermen have a chance to fish when a older fisherman stops. The cost of a boat and traps are very costly but now fuel and bait prices are the highest in years so a young person will think whether he or she wants to be in the future of fishing but they should have that chance.
429	The big problem is the increased effort in Zone I. This should be a separate fishery, or closed and wait and catch lobsters in the spring. With lower costs associated and lower risks, a person can catch the same lobsters with 32 foot, \$100,000 boat versus a 42 foot, \$250,000 boat. Too much of the resource is being wasted on big motors and big boats, doesn't make much sense. (Tax write-offs, everybody loses.)
430	I believe Zone D is currently over fished. I've also heard of fishermen using 2 boats or more fishing the same color and license number, which I don't think is right. I think that once you have bought your allotted number of tags you shouldn't be allowed to purchase anymore for that year.

431	No float rope. The whale rule will cost me up to half of my gear, due to hang downs and parting off.
432	No fishing on Saturday and Sunday year round.
433	There are simply too many fishermen and too many traps. A lower trap limit and a license freeze seem to be the only real solutions. Other things have been tried unsuccessfully.
434	I would like to see 1 boat not 2 or 3 boats owned by one person and others using those boats to go lobstering for the owner of those boats.
435	No reduction in traps is needed! Move exemption line outside to 50 fathom curve. Do more research on where the whales are. Leave trap limit alone, we take care of feed lobsters every day we haul!
436	We have a trap limit: Zone E.
437	I believe we should go to 600 traps statewide for the 2009 season, all latent licenses (but not tags) should be eliminated. The latent eliminations should not count towards exit ratio calculations.
438	Recreational licenses should be allowed 1 tag.
439	The State of Maine needs limited entry. They are 70 years too late. Any fishermen making \$30,000 a year on shore jobs or over should be limited to 200 traps.
440	If the cost of bait, fuel, traps, rope, buoys, etc. keeps going up, you won't need a trap limit. It will weed out all of the people with high over heads and take care of itself.
441	We had some exceptional fishing years in the past. Lobstering is not as profitable as it has been, but is still not bad. I am against any trap reduction. It will only help the part time fishermen and the older fishermen who want to slow down anyway. The young fishermen with families and payments will be hurt the most.
442	Freeze tags now.
443	I would like to see a reduction of tags, in increments by year, for those who collect a pension or social security benefits, much as we see the increase, by increments by year, for those entering the business.
444	With 10 years of limited entry and trap tags, we have a net increase in traps and fishermen. In 2 years of dropping catches, we are seeing a reduction in both. Please leave the fishery alone.
445	Freeze the number of licenses before you reduce the trap tags. Do not allow the number of licenses to increase because you have dropped the amount of traps a license has (i.e. Don't take 200 traps away from 2 fishermen, then allow another to get in the business). Do some real conservation.
446	Put students on the waiting list. 5 out, 1 in.
447	The whale reduction plan is going to put us offshore island fishermen out of business in 3 years or less. The higher fuel prices are going to kill the bigger boats running offshore. So, if we start losing traps on top of that from using sink rope trailer, it will put us out of business fast.
448	There should be a separate counting of full-time fishermen who do this for a living and part timers who do it for other purposes. When I fish 800 traps and 40 tags for lost gear from traffic, I only bring home 740. If I fish 600, I would bring home 500. Rob McMahan, how would you like your job if you had to work for less next year? But first, you have to fill out a questionnaire similar to this one.
449	Do away with the new rope. Keep trap limit the same for a few more years and stop giving out any more licenses. Then see how things are going in 3 - 4 years. There may have to be some major adjustments then because of bait and fuel. If the prices get any higher, a lot of people will be getting done.
450	Lobster resource is like a pie - doesn't change much in size but those sitting at the table increases each year. You know the answer.
451	How much more do we have to go through? You succeeded in putting the ground fish fleet out of business, now your working on us. You talk about over fishing, but what about regulations. Trying to make a living on 800 traps is hard enough with the price of bait and fuel. Any less traps than that and we might as well hang it up! Maybe I'll fish offshore to put more pressure on the offshore industry. That's what a lot of people are doing these days. You want to conserve the industry more, than make more mandatory days off. Like no Sundays years round and maybe Saturdays too. That would be a big difference.
452	No trap reduction, just no new licenses.
453	I travel 20 miles to fish, taking away traps will impact me very much. The lobsters have been on a down cycle, but what I see this year looks like it's back up. Don't do a knee jerk reaction, things will improve again. People who can't make a living with the high price of fuel and bait will leave. Wait and see.
454	I buy all 880 tags each year, but I don't always fish my 800 traps at one time. Spring, I might only fish 650; summer, 800; fall, when the weather gets bad, I fish around 500 - 600. I don't understand why the state of Maine doesn't want us to work. You keep on taking and taking, but give nothing back. I fish on Criehaven with the whale problem. I don't have any traps I can fish without whale rope. I have had my traps in for 3 weeks, already lost 10 traps because of rope. So I don't think we need a trap reduction because rope will do it for you.

455	You can't keep restricting the guys making a living to make room for more fishermen. Also, if the state is truly interested in getting a handle on effort, then why not get rid of replacement tags. Everyone knows it's a license to cheat. This would be a 5% - 10% reduction and for once, the honest guy wouldn't be the one getting hurt. It would be a start. Also, do high school kids really need or deserve 880 tags? I started in a skiff with 200 traps.
456	Hoping the ratio of in and out with tags will cut down on them.
457	You know the 10% extra tags is a farce. Do you realize how many fishermen set 880 traps?! Eliminate that first. The latent tags do nothing to reduce effort other than consolidate the tags in the hands of a few fishermen. Percents always favor the larger fishermen. the other issue that always bothers me is the two tier system to enter lobstering. A student waltzes in after 3 years. Those who apprentice will never get in. It is just unconstitutionally wrong. You have two classes of people with the system. It is not equal under the law.
458	We need to decrease traps to increase pounds per trap. This will cause us to increase profit. This is our only hope to stay profitable.
459	I'm a Zone D fisherman. I believe we need to increase traps to help cover the increase in expenses (fuel, bait, etc). A few less traps fished in this area should increase pounds per trap. I also think we should shut down inside 3 mile line until May 15th. 90% of the fishermen in this area probably break even or lose money until this time. A waste of valuable bait for no profit. I also think we should look at fishermen drawing social security. Maybe they need to fish a few less traps. They enjoyed many years of good fishing. We need to fish smarter, not harder.
460	It is imperative that latent effort must be eliminated first, or we will no longer have a full time fishery.
461	It's time the state started reducing effort, not the fishermen. Stop giving out licenses.
462	Why should fishermen that have been in the industry a long time have to keep reducing traps? Don't let any more fishermen trap, unless they are from fishing families.
463	In 1996 I gave up 1,300 traps to go to 800 traps. And the government let everybody get a license so to reduce traps even more without freezing licenses completely including students is absurd.
464	I don't want a trap limit of 400 or 600. 800 traps is fair. I do support a freeze on licenses! Please don't compare us to what they did or how they are doing on Monhegan Island!
465	Fishing since 1974, reduce number of licenses not the traps per license. Also, to hold a full time license, should earn living primarily from lobsters (maybe 2/3 or 3/4 or more). Make this industry a business, not a political game.
466	Have a buy out program for older fishermen who want to sell out. No sales tax on diesel fuel for lobstermen.
467	Leave the trap limit alone! I am 4th generation fisherman. Lobsters are plentiful. There may not be as many as there was a few years ago, but that was the high. Lobsters are on a little bit of a down cycle. They will be back! Give the current limit a chance to work. Don't put fishermen in a spot by reducing traps. let it be!
468	Too numerous to mention. Where does it all end - explanation?
469	I feel we need to give the new trap limit (4,000 traps out of the water, for 1 licenses allowed in) time to work. I feel the elimination of float rope outside the exemption line in state waters is going to put a big hurt on the fishermen financially, especially on rocky bottom.
470	You disregarded our wishes 10-20 years ago to stop issuing licenses. See what trouble there is now. Licenses should be able to be bought from existing lobstermen. Just like any other business. There should be a limit on licenses. I am a 61-years license holder.
471	Lobsters off the coast of Maine belong not just to coastal residents, not just to Maine residents, but to every citizen of the US. This zone council structure that allows license holders, and only license holders, to decide who get in the "club" is ethically and constitutionally wrong. There are plenty of lobsters out there. This effort limitation isn't about conservation, it's about greed, and keeping it all to ourselves. I say, let 'em fish.
472	We need to get rid of the recreational licenses. Stop allowing anyone in high school to get an automatic license after graduation. Let them earn it like everyone else.
473	Feel that those retiring from the business should be able to sell his/her license to a person wishing to enter the business. This being a form of retirement income.
474	Traps limits part time fishermen.
475	What has taken you so long to realize all these questions? Instead of doing something right away, you'll talk it to death until it's too late. I think the most important thing to do is if you did not file a schedule C on your income, you don't get a renewal of your license. Unless you're a student or were sick or in the service. Students should have 250 traps until they graduate then 400. Period!

476	There should be a trap reduction only if licenses are shut down completely. There should not be another tag license issued ever again in the State of Maine, period. The fishery should be owner operated, period. You should be able to buy and sell licenses. Get rid of the Commissioner. He has single handedly ruined the lobster fishery in Maine.
477	The state should freeze tags on the number issued by 12-31-06 and reduce everyone by 25%, including Swan's Island and Monhegan Island. There should be absolutely no new licenses issued until each zone has met its target reduction. The state should consider letting these licenses to be sold to individuals not corporations. Will the head of DMR do what needs to be done or be a jellyfish as was the case when the trap limits came in.
478	The trap <u>vent</u> was the best thing that happened in the lobster industry. <u>Herring</u> is the most important bait we are farming for lobsters, as it stands. Last year was the best for bait. It was kept well in large coolers, very important for feeding the young stock.
479	Leave us alone
480	The 10% replacement tags should be removed because they are being set and not for replacement.
481	You guys have already taken 400 traps away from me and given them to somebody else. Now you want to take more away. Let the 4,000 traps out of the water to 800 in ratio work for 5 years and then see of something has to be done.
482	Take away 5 trap license. Many of them take shorts. No weekend hauling. No hauling past 4:00pm. Too many traps are being left out in the winter and nobody is hauling them. The St. George River was full of traps all winter. The DMR should have pulled them out of the water and sold them. Limit the new licenses with less traps. Should put a freeze on licenses when we went to a trap limit. We would not be here today talking about this. I also said this in Augusta before the trap limit even started. DMR said the guys fishing 400 traps would not come to the 800. I just laughed along with everybody else. My 500 traps went to a guy that was fishing 300. Maybe someday you'll listen to the full time lobstermen, instead of the educated idiot. I could write a book about DMR and the state capital of Maine.
483	Latent tag has no effect on those traps that aren't in the water. The only fair way is to take a percentage out so everyone is involved in reductions. Where I fish, we've already lost a few fishermen because catch is down and everything costs more. The whale will impact us even more. I think we'll have a few more down years. More fishermen will be forced out.
484	A trap limit done by the state will not work. It will put every full time lobsterman out of business. DMR has proven track on this. If we had a trap tag freeze in 1996 like all full timers wanted, this survey would not be necessary. What needs to be done will never happen. We need a license freeze, we need a trap tag freeze, and we need to eliminate latent tags and licenses. If we could get to this point and only then, it would be time to talk about a trap limit reduction.
485	I feel that 600 or 700 traps would work for me. If the line for the use of float rope was the 3 mile line.
486	This whole whale thing is ridiculous. All sink rope is going to do is make a huge hung down mess on the bottom. Trap reduction will starve out a lot of families, if the fuel doesn't already.
487	All kids getting out of school should be able to fish, just like everybody else (no apprentice program). They should get their license if they want to.
488	Get rid of the people that already have jobs that fish part time in the best of the season....illegible....
489	If you want to help, stop people from buying more boats and giving stern men licenses and tags and fishing another 800, 1,600, and 2,400. Frank Thompson, he fishes 2,400. Ask anybody on Vinalhaven. Wayne Young fishes 1,600 in two boats. I could go on all day, that is just a few. Plus the wardens know all this. All they have to do is have the stern men on the boat that have the license and tags and fish as many as they want stop that and it would take a lot of traps out of the waters.
490	Let's start with existing problems before talking about a trap reduction. 1) the biggest offenders are the guys with the two boat system--one for themselves and stern men tag on another. 2) Have no more than one stern man per boat (800 tags) in state waters, and or have a daily time limit. Example, 6 a.m. to 2 to 3 p.m. These suggestions are easily enforceable by the Marine Patrol, rather than having them haul traps for illegal or untagged traps. Weed out license holders and tags that are going unused. Give them to student license holders coming into the industry. Finally, make it so a license holder could sell his license to a person on the waiting list.
491	I have been lobstering since 1980. I believe that when the tagging process was started, the licenses would have been frozen. Then we wouldn't have the problem with over fishing. I believe if we had done that, we still would be having the big years that we had in the late 1990's and early 2000's.

492	Unless the law changes requiring the owner to operate their own boat, any amount to reduce the number of traps in the water will fail. Already, some guys have two boats, one in their name and the other in the stern man's, who has trap tags. The captain operates both boats and is able to fish 1600 traps. They are cheating to beat the trap limit. If the captain had to be in the stern of the stern man's boat, this would help solve this problem. If the trap limit drops, more captains will buy a second boat to fish the stern man or wife's tags. So a lower limit could put more traps in the water.
493	You don't enforce the laws you have passed. They are unenforceable.
494	Let the money side take care of it, those who have over capitalized will be first to go. Your real fishermen will still be working year in and year out! We have reduced 3 times and there are more traps in the water than ever!
495	To hold a commercial license your income on your schedule C should be 80% from fishing. The islands off the coast of Maine should be in their own zone. Limits on entry controlled by 3 or 5 to 1 will end life as a commercial fisherman for young people. Fines for short lobsters should be: 1 - 5 \$100 a piece Over 5 - \$1,000 Over 10 - Loss of license for 1 year 3 strikes - loss of license forever. In 50 years of commercial fishing, I have seen 3 small whales tangles in lobster gear. In all cases, fishermen not whale or news people, untangled and released them. The same approach should be used on all whales. If the money was used as a bounty to free whales instead of putting us all out of business, say one million dollars, you would see commercial fisherman rig up with gear to free any entangled whale. It's very clear the whale people would rather have a dead whale. It means more money. You are not going to free a large whale with a rubber boat and a camera.
496	Looking at the recent Zone C District 7 license holders it is time to eliminate tags and license holders not being used first. It's time we look at New Hampshire's full time and part time eligibility and develop our own program. We just keep making it harder for the next generation who might want to fish someday. We should also make violators with large numbers of illegal lobsters a crime not a joke like it is now.
497	Having to put neutral buoyancy rope on in a lot of places that we have to is stupid. I've been on the water for 34 years and have never seen a whale in a lot of these places. And when you figure the cost of rope and all, the reports on it only lasting a few hauls to a season, it gets even stupider.
498	If the whale line does not get moved out to at least the 3 mile line, we are all going to be out of business.
499	The whale plan is going to put the fishermen out of business.
500	Too many untagged traps, not enough wardens to enforce current regulations. With lower tag limit, more untagged traps will be in the water.
501	Lobster stock appears good from looking at shorts. The only way to reduce traps in the water is to reduce licenses not tags.
502	The whale rope thing is a complete joke. Someone is going to get hurt badly or die from hung down sink rope. Then, the whale people will have their turn in being sued.
503	No more unenforceable regulations. Major infractions should carry non-negotiable stiff fines, confiscation of catch and traps, no fishing until court date, repeat offender lose license and vessel. Eliminate multiple boat operators. Owner/operator only, with license tied to only one fishing vessel. Introduce electronic accounting of landings (swipe cards) to verify poundage for management purposes (log books will not be taken seriously). Economics of industry and pressure of a mono-fishery are driving force to break laws and abandon common sense practice and respect of others.
504	One boat/one owner. No more owning 2 or 3 boats and getting someone else to fish for him/her. Things are as bad now as I have ever seen and I have been lobstering for 70 years. Freeze licenses. Make it so somebody has to buy one from a fisherman that is getting out. This works in fisheries on the west coast. It would work here and a retiring fisherman would have an asset that would be worth something.
505	600 traps and Sunday law April 1st November 1st. Only one boat per lobsterman.
506	It isn't mentioned here, but it is our largest problem. The greed of the so called oil people is nothing short of annoying.
507	The best way to get traps and vertical lines out of the water is to get rid of the part-timers. Every year at license renewal time make them prove that 100% of their years income comes from commercial fishing. Have a six or seven hundred trap limit for full-time lobstermen and increase the cost of licenses and tags so the state can still get the revenue from it. This would definitely take a lot of traps out of the water. Any less than 600 is not enough to get by with in these economic times. If it were 400, they would just be creating more part-timers. As for the float rope issue, everybody and their grandmother knows that sinking rope will not work, and that is that. Evidently, everyone, except the fools at NMFS, realize this. All this law will do is make lawbreakers out of honest, hard working people. I am 44-years old, been lobstering all my life and never hardly had so much as a parking ticket. But if this really goes through, I will be forced to break the law to keep my five kids warm and fed, all because of a whale problem that does not even exist, except possibly in offshore waters of the G.O.M.
508	It is my opinion that the cost of lobstering will doom the industry in the end. I've been a full time lobstermen my whole life. It used to be a simple livelihood, you only took what you needed and saved the rest for the future. Now look at it.

509	I think if the trap limit is reduced, we will have the same problem as before. The men and women will get their own boat and traps and will end up with more traps being fished. The stern men have to make a living too.
510	Percent of income should be from lobstering for the tags allowed to fish.
511	If we do have a new trap limit, we need to freeze the licenses also.
512	If we go lower than 800 traps, we will not survive. It's pretty hard to try to make a living now.
513	We couldn't make it with less traps. The trap limit was just a joke to begin with. It would have worked out with a license freeze. The state knew that a lot of lobstermen were fishing 1,200 to 2,000. They knew that most of them had two stern people.
514	Until they address the issue of 1 owner having 2 and 3 boats fishing, with each boat have the full limit of traps, there is no sense trying to limit the traps. It's a loop hole that the state, for some reason, doesn't want to fess up to. Why doesn't the state point out that the right whale issue is blown out of context. There are plenty of right whales that stay south. 300 break away and swim north while the main school stays south. Tell the truth for once!
515	I would not be in favor of any trap limits for people that have already had to give up 400 traps.
516	There needs to be a closure to the loophole of fishermen having 2 boats and 1,600 traps which is becoming a problem in our area. Often one boat is never used stating "mechanical difficulties" but the 1,600 traps are being fished from 1 boat.
517	Do it!
518	When I fished 1,550 traps, the state cut us back to 850 traps without limiting and new licenses. Therefore, I am against limiting traps at this point. By not limiting licenses, there are more traps in the water than ever before. They allowed "week end" fishermen to cut into our livelihood. We lost 1/2 of the traps we had and the state enabled then to fish up to 850 - stupid! Anyone could get a license, no retractions - dumb!
519	Fuel costs, bait costs, and bait availability will reduce effort.
520	Passing of licenses from father to son, this used to be composed of small family businesses. Laws should be passed to encourage lobster fishing as a small boat family business.
521	I fish in the exempt area. So this whale stuff won't bother me (I guess).
522	Trap limits are a zone issue and should be debated at the zone council level before going to the LAC.
523	#10
524	450 tags per fisherman. That's more than enough for this zone.
525	I feel that you should be able to hand down your license to a family member.
526	I told you in 1995 that the trap limit would cause more traps in the water without freezing or limit. It was unfair to the hard working fishermen who were 19 percent and 81 percent against us who were buying traps, boats, engines. My biggest worries were in 1997, that there were too many lobster (illegible) would kill them off because of (illegible) increases and vent.
527	Some effort should be made to allow retiring fishermen to see their licenses with their boat and gear. Otherwise a lot of people can't retire because there is no market for their equipment.
528	I do favor freezing entry, but it should not affect the kids that are born into fishing families. It should on effect the potato farmers that shouldn't be out there anyway. We should get a new trap limit, 1,200.
529	I think that if people hold a lobster license, they have to have proof of income from that license. There are people with a license that don't have gear or a boat. What does that do for the young man down the road that really wants to go if there should be a freeze on licenses?
530	Family should be able to fish out of 1 boat and fish the full amount of traps allowed to each person. Tags should be on the fisherman, not the boat.
531	What has hurt us the most is whether fishermen are setting up helpers. As the trap limit drops, they just buy a boat, traps and take a percentage. I know of three fishermen that now have nine boats working for them. Also, the father-child apprenticeship program is a joke. Most of the time, the child is never in the boat and dad is hauling away and, yes, beating the system
532	We need to make sure that the number of total tags is decreasing, not increasing!
533	Stop the whale plan. No fishing in January and February.
534	Zone C fishermen yearly fish more than 49% of their traps in Blue Hill Bay (Zone B). Why cut Zone B back when you can get in Zone C and fish up to 400 Zone C tags per person in Zone B. Make it no fishing between zones, if a zone is closed like Zone B. You have a Zone C license, you fish your own zone, not a closed one. That will eliminate 10,000 - 15,000 tags in Zone B.

535	I think the Commissioner of the DMR, should enforce the laws a lot better than he does. All he does is sit at the Navigator with fishermen and have cocktails. Fishermen are setting 1,400 - 1,800 traps and nothing is done about it. I also don't think any fisherman should give up his license because he isn't fishing as many traps as the other guys. I have had a license all my life and I might want to set 20 traps. Why should I have to give that up. I have paid for my license and it should be mine as long as I want it.
536	Reduce the number of traps for people who got their license within the past 5 years.
537	Trap limits while allowing increased effort by additional new lobstermen is feared by most fishermen.
538	I do not believe a trap limit should be an answer to the problem! Fishermen should not have to take any more traps out of the water. There should not be anymore traps going into the water. Freeze the licenses. Do not let anyone else in, no more tags in. Don't punish the people who have already sacrificed. If we don't freeze licenses and move away from trap limits, no one will be able to make a living in the fishery and there won't be anything for those who have invested their lives into the fishery. We need to find alternative ways to reduce effort, i.e. increase measure, revoke draggers 500lb allowance, zero tolerance on V-notch , make it illegal for anyone to possess over sized lobsters, etc. Something other than punishing those who have built the industry. No more trap limits!
539	I am not even in favor of issuing extra tags. Fishermen with 880 tags are fishing 880 tags (illegible).
540	I'd like to see a 500 trap limit. Many in my area haul wide operations. They've hauled 150 to 200 pr and come home by 1:00. These guys haul and dump, don't shift or tend until fall.
541	I am from Swan's Island, we have the small trap limit of 475. If the state would go to 400 or 500 traps, you might save the lobster business. We have proven that 475 works. We have more fishermen now then when we started the trap limit. I think we had 46 licenses on Swan's Island, now we have 71 fishermen. Cut us back to 400 or 375.
542	A very shallow survey! There seems to be no concern that the size of the boats has increased hugely allowing for traps to be hauled many more times a year. For you not to be concerned about total effort (traps hauled per year) questions the credibility of this silly survey. Fishermen who have chosen to be less greedy and fish less traps for a shorter season with a smaller boat should be penalized the least. By the state and industry promoting bigger boats, more horse power, and longer fishing year, they have fallen into the same hole as urchiners, scallopers, herring fishermen, etc. Over exploitation of another resource.
543	With higher fuel prices, lobstermen need more traps, not less. Lobster hatcheries should be operated in every town that depends on lobstering as a mainstay for economy.
544	You fish in federal waters or state waters, not both. 600 trap limit, if it was enforced. 800 trap limit hasn't been enforced.
545	In Casco Bay, there was a definite improvement in both gear, congestion, and catch in 1999 - 2000. It was in 1999 that the huge guys were dropped down to 1,000 traps. In our area, there were some fishing 2,000+ before that. Now, however, there has been such a flood of new entry over the past 8 years that the gear congestion problem is as bad as ever. It seems as though some areas that become excessively crowded get gear-sick. I don't know whether it is because there are too many snarls of traps dropping to the bottom, or too much rotten slime from bait lying there. It does seem as though lobsters move out of these places to some extent.
546	Guys should not be allowed to fish their children's traps. Our area is way, way over fished. I feel that those that fish outside should stay outside and let the bay fishermen fish inside. A fisherman should not be allowed to purchase a second boat and put a licensed fisherman in it. Each should own his own boat.
547	First reduction on effort should be removal of all 5-trap recreational licenses. Many license holders are stern men and work on more than one boat. I've held a license for over 60-years, and I will not surrender my license to greed.
548	Well you folks have done it, you're closing the gate after the horse left. The only thing these trap limits have done is limit my life style.
549	How can a lobsterman haul traps in a \$200,000 boat on his daughter's student license? She goes to school in southern Maine and has traps off Casco Bay. If you have lots of money, the rules don't apply.
550	Eliminate recreational traps first. Eliminate people who lobster fish as a secondary income. Do not hurt fishermen who manage their budgets because of those who have over extended their budgets.
551	Would favor reducing traps to 500 per fisherman over a three or four-year period.
552	Its not the number of traps in my area. It's the two lobstermen fishing 1600 out of the same boat. There are four boats in Portland fishing that way every day, 1600 traps. Also, before we limit traps, the state should stop handing lobster licenses <u>to anyone that comes in to Maine!!!</u>
553	If something isn't done soon, it won't matter! I'm for anything that will "help" this industry to survive.

554	I would like to see everyone use the same number, inshore and offshore, because there are all the same lobsters. You can't reduce effort and leave student licenses unchanged.
555	I fish in the Swan's Island Zone and am already limited to 475 traps. This is low enough as it is, the rest of the state needs to catch up with us.
556	In my opinion, lobster licenses should be like a federal permit; worth money, able to be sold or transferred. There is way too much pressure in Zone D. My catch gets worse every season, inshore and offshore.
557	As I have said before, shouldn't it be the ones who didn't have to back last time, cut back this time to help the resource. I would favor a tiered licensing system. Many of us cut back last time, only to give our traps to someone else new to the fishery. Let's make it fair.
558	400 traps: all pairs, no singles. This would cut down on the vertical lines in the water by more than 50%. It would also help ghost traps. It is easier to catch a pair than a single. Also, this would free up a lot of bottom. Put everyone on the same list, 5 out 1 in, kids included.
559	Don't take licenses and tags away from people who aren't using them. That's one way to help the trap limit. For one thing, some older people have had a licenses for years and would like to keep them. Allow fishermen to fish beyond the 3 mile limit or inside, but not both. Take away from inside fishermen.
560	I feel we should get more support from the state of Maine when dealing with the ALWTRP. We don't even know for sure what we can or can't use for ropes or where.
561	Leave the business alone. Mother Nature dictates the resource! Every season is different. That is Mother Nature at its best. It is a very healthy business, if man will leave it alone so you can work!! I like to work a lot of these guy's in zone D. But they don't want to put forth the effort. Trap reduction is not the answer!! Bait and fuel and cost of living are the killers. We're in a down cycle, and I bet it picks up again, shortly! And the rules and conservation effort are in place and have been for years. Leave it alone! Go to work!! Nothing more than man oil spills or disease will kill this. Healthy business. Hope you can read my penmanship. Sorry for this sloppiness. Sincerely yours.
562	I would like to see lowering the number of traps on strings inside the confines of the inlets and rivers.
563	No new licenses = trap reduction
564	Bait is going to be a problem if something isn't done about it. Setting limits equal for everybody is needed. My trap limit is 800, if dropped down by half and haul twice through the week, would still equal 800 traps. Dropping to 600 traps would be a start of chance in the right direction!
565	Something needs to be done with trap reductions or no more licenses.
566	Stop part time lobstering.
567	I support a closed season. The lobster fishing business is on its knees praying for its very existence. Not because of depletion of stock but because of intervention from governments, DMR, and environmental groups. If we had any leaders in this country, we wouldn't be in this situation that we're in with the whales. The area that I fish has no right whales in it, so I have no effect on right whales. But I have to spend thousands on break aways and rope to comply with rules that were made by someone outside the industry. These rules could cripple the industry and does nothing to save the right whale. I oppose break aways, sink rope, mandatory reporting, fees for the lobster promotion council, lobster dragging survey, and all fees for research. In other words, get off our backs and get your hand out of our back pockets. I am tired of paying fees to people who are trying to put us out of business.
568	Latent effort is not a threat to the business, "effort" might be. More pressure is exerted by "effort." There is no pressure by "latent effort." That term is a scare tactic that was used on us in the ground fish business.
569	I feel, with the price of bait and fuel, lower traps in the water to 400. We would catch as many lobsters with less overhead and over fishing.
570	I believe that we need to allow the individual town to be able to govern what happens there. Go back to traditional lines and there will be no problem with trap reduction. Fishermen can govern their own lows by votes at town offices and on a town level. Every area is different.
571	You have probably heard the argument from fishermen not liking someone with 1/2 the boat length having the same number of tags. I think 20 tags per 1 foot of boat length--(20,400) (30,600). These type of numbers run consistently with what that size of boat can safely handle. I fish a 30 foot boat and have hauled 600 to 800. I would be good with 600.
572	The whale plan is a joke. There are fisherman, lobster and gill-netters that have fished for 30 to 50 years, and they have never seen a (illegible) whale. If you can't catch one in a gill-net, there is none around. As far as entry into lobster fishing as long as kids can get the licenses and fish that would be great. After all, that is the future of fishing.
573	I have always liked lobstering because a fisherman is free to work as hard or as little as they want. More trap limits will take this away. Not allowing any new fishermen will take a privilege away I had when I started. I do not believe in communist or socialistic practices. This is supposed to be the land of the free!

574	Reducing trap limits will not reduce the amount of gear in the water, unless entry of new licenses is frozen.
575	150 lobsters in count, per day, per owner operated. Saturday and Sunday off. Person that runs the boat can't get in his other and go that day. No more recreational licenses.
576	1) Make it owner operated and reduce pressure. That simple. 2) Enforce laws you already have.
577	We should stop issuing replacement tags because people are using them from the start, so they are fishing 880 traps. If they really want to reduce effort, that would be the first place to start. It's time to protect the upcoming kids and forget about other people who have decided to fish at age 45+. Maybe nobody else feels this way, but it's my opinion.
578	The government should stay out of lobstering to start with.
579	No trap reduction! People are already getting out.
580	State wide 400 trap limit will be better managed. The sooner you act, the better the fisher. Don't wait until it's too late.
581	I have been fishing my whole life and I have never seen a right whale. (Whale lovers suck.)
582	In Zone F, 42 licenses were not renewed in 2005, 39 represented unused licenses and tags. We voted for 5 out 1 in for Zone F, but the commissioner overruled us and out 3 out 1 in. This resulted on 14 new and aggressive 800 trap fishermen. This ignorance continues. We don't need further trap limit reductions. We need 5 active licenses that are retired, based on tags fished, replaced with 1 active new license.
583	Also, instead of trap limits, I would rather see a closed season in state waters from January to April or May. That would give the state time to take gear left out by those too lazy to take them up. It would also eliminate gear conflicts between shrimp boats and lobster boats and give the lobsters a little break.
584	Please do not recommend another trap limit. We are in a hard time due to fuel and bait, not the amount of traps. You just want to put us out of business in a round about way. Let the industry work itself out, not you trying to pacify it.
585	I think Zone F&G should be reduced to 600 traps. Also, reduce the ratio of in licenses to out licenses to slow the amount of new traps entering the water.
586	The lobster industry is being singled out as a source of employment for high school students, but at this time the industry cannot handle or support the additional pressure.
587	I strongly oppose any new trap limits. Let the 5:1 exit ratio slowly decrease the number of traps. Economic conditions will dictate how many traps are in the water. We have good conservation measures in place. The fishery will support what it can.
588	People have to have enough traps to make a living, that's why you can't freeze the number of tags of people just getting in the business (they only start off with 300 tags). I would not support eliminating latent effort licenses because some people are sick and have to take time off and besides, they aren't using them, so they're not putting a burden on the resource.
589	I believe a trap limit needs to be placed in order very soon and not 5 years from now, and also people fishing two or three boats to get more tags need to be addressed and eliminated.
590	Back in the 1960's, people could make a living with 150 to 300 traps and haul the same traps every day. In most cases, it was a lot less (illegible) fishing 150 to 300 traps than what people fish today.
591	Freezing licenses, in my opinion, is the way to sustain the fishery. Having a trap reduction and letting new license holders into the fishery is not a reduction in the end. Besides, with the price of fuel and bait and all the whale business, I don't know who in their right mind would go in debt to be a fisherman right now.
592	Simple solution: stop selling new licenses. No new entry without us selling our own licenses. It works for every other fishery. State could charge a sales tax on license sale.
593	Have the government buy lobster licenses like they did for tuna licenses. This would reduce the number.
594	Give the entry: exit ratio time to work. This will eventually reduce the number of fishermen and the number of traps in the water. A new trap limit will make lobstering a part time business. Maybe consider allowing us to sell our licenses when planning for retirement.
595	We never had a problem with you people being concerned about effort until you started the trap tag program.
596	Status quo, give us a break.
597	Effort could be reduced by making each fisherman choose to either fish inside the 3 mile line, or outside. But not both. The big offshore boats are grinding off traps that are ghost traps and keep lobsters until the escape vents rust out. Many lobsters die. They are making it really hard for the inshore fleet to survive.
598	The ideas may be good reason, but once we vote they have another set to start over again before all actually have a chance to see if the first decision we made actually will help our situation. I'd suggest instead of jumping ahead, we let mother nature and the rules and regulations we have now try to work first.

599	I was very disappointed that my son was only 5 hours and 29 days away from receiving his lobster license when the law was changed to 17 years old. He had even been to his boater safety course. I don't want new entry licenses froze because my son needs his license.
600	I believe new entries, people switching zones, people that have not been affected before, people that do not make at least 90% or greater of their income from lobstering should be effected by the trap reduction. Veterans (someone who has been previously effected by a trap reduction_ or federal permit holders should not be affected.
601	This paper implies that trap reduction is already a done deal. The business is hurting from laws enacted years ago on trap limit and license restrictions. We need less government interference, not more. Your laws meant a trap build up, not reductions. Get government off our backs, get rid of NMFS restrictions and let us fish. All these laws are destroying our industry. LAC isn't helping us either.
602	It would be nice if we could step back and take a look at what is working and what is not. Do away with what doesn't work. Maybe just step back and see if anything is working.
603	Reduce trap limits to 600 and reduce the number of new entrants to 5 out:1 in. Change the law back to a V-notch, not any imperfection. To many lobsters with natural imperfections, not many made V-notches. Just about everyone punches the females with imperfections. We are getting too many punched lobsters.
604	Stop letting people in for now, before it's too late. There are people on disability and people who work at the shipyard or the mill who should be reduced first.
605	Either cut the amount of gear in half or the amount of fishermen in half in this zone.
606	The state should set the trap limit. Most fishermen will not agree.
607	How could the state enforce eliminating latent effort?
608	Currently fish in Zone E, 600 trap limit. As you know, the rest of the state is was above us on traps allotted. Recreational fishing in our area, John's Bay, is also a growing factor.
609	Eliminate unused tags. Eliminate a commercial fisherman that runs multiple boats with someone else's tags while the rest of us try to exist fishing 800. Define felony infractions - such as someone saving in excess of say 3 to 5 shorts per crate - they should lose their license for life. Eliminate zones outside 3 miles. The zones were only for voting purposes inshore and not restrict and Maine boat from fishing anywhere with a permit.
610	Too many people in the business. Drop the trap limit and it would spread the catch out over the whale year and it would help the market. Less traps would mean less risk of whale entanglement.
611	I don't think that any more than 3 traps per line should be fished within 3 miles.
612	I think when someone is caught pulling someone else's gear, that person should lose their license, not just fined. Marine wardens should return calls to fishermen.
613	These are the opinions of a 58 year old man with grown kids and at least presently financially stable. Downsizing would be more acceptable to me, that it would for many others.
614	Immediately stop the non commercial licenses, it's out of control. The trap limit was a stupid idea in the first place, I added traps to the water. My brother-in-law fished 1,200. He has to take 400 out, why?
615	You should only allow one new license for each license that is retired . Keep the apprentice program, so that the new fishermen that will be let in will have experience.
616	Eliminate all recreational tags issued after 2000.
617	Muscongus Bay has too many traps. My opinion is eventually, this will pollute the sea bottom.
618	There's plenty of lobsters. Any decrease in the next few year in lobster catch will be from a bad economy. The effort will be down (price of bait, fuel, labor, traps). Zone E has 660 traps each, any less and you couldn't make a living.

- 619 The cost of fuel along with the price and shortage of bait is off the wall high. At some point the president must cap the price of fuel. If every one across the board was lowered to 500 traps each, than the fish won't be over fished. You don't need to freeze license entries or take the ones not being used. People may need to fall back on fishing some day. We have seven grandchildren--and maybe they might want to fish in their life time. My opinion is, if you make all fishermen choose where they fish, hold only one license at a time, then most of your problems would be solved. Example, 1) All traps allowed to all fishermen- 500 traps. 2. Fish either inside or outside (federal-state waters)--like a six-mile limit or something. If you allow them to fish outside in deeper water all winter season, then when the lobsters are all caught, they drop their trap on mine in the rocky shore of two miles out. "That is not fair!" They all have this invisible line, and if they think I'm too close or over that line, my traps are lost for good. What do they think, they own the water, all the lobsters? Then in the spring and fall, they fish right next to me, and is that okay? Please really think before you make decisions. I'm looking at 10 years from now. Then look one day from now. Like I've said, my grandchildren don't have much hope now with any fishery job - clams, mussels, lobstering. Please think about them. I do.
- 620 Reduce fishing effort by 100 traps a year. Have a 600 trap limit (maximum), not 660! Eliminate 1 captain, 2 boats. Eliminate boat captains from hauling or setting their children's traps, 150 each. Do something!
- 621 I think we should all be trying to get a better price for our lobsters. This year is going to be very bad for everybody, price wise. When lobsters are only \$5 in April and May, what will sheddors be worth? Who's in control?
- 622 It is my opinion and probably many more fisherman that if this over regulating doesn't stop it will ruin our industry. The whale rules are going way too far. Most of these sitting aren't even in the state low profile area. The trap limit should stay where it is as far as I'm concerned. Stop fixing what isn't broke already!
- 623 By having an across the board trap limit, you only hurt the full timers. This would only help the guys who don't depend solely on fishing. I've had to give up fishing 400 traps already, isn't it time to take a different look at this before I have to find another job!
- 624 Many of us went from 1200-1000-900-800 without complaint. Many new fishermen came into our fishery after our sacrifice, made it such a healthy fishery. Maybe they should make a sacrifice before many of us who have already given up 1/4 or more of our traps have to do so again.
- 625 I'm pretty much happy with 600 limit or maybe lowering to 500. I think that fuel and bait prices are one of the biggest concerns this year.
- 626 Think unless your name is on the waterfront or shorefront deed, you shouldn't be about to have to maximum number of tags.
- 627 Too many student fishermen have been let into the fishery. They should go on a waiting list the same as the apprentice has to. But allowing them to fish the same number of traps as a student with a slight increase of 15-20%, till a license becomes available, this is so unfair to the apprentice.
- 628 I have cut back on traps from 1,400 to 800, only to see the traps given to new entrants. I can barely get by on what I fish now. Let some of the new entrants cut back. I have been cut enough,
- 629 We need 800 traps to pay all out to bait and fuel, and stern men reducing traps means lost jobs.
- 630 Something has to be done about the number of traps in the water. There is not really a fair way to do it. However, the guys that make 100% of their living from lobstering should take the least amount of the reduction.
- 631 First, for us to reduce the number of tags, I think we have to stop all entries from coming in. Secondly, find all the licenses in the state that are not being used and stop those license holders. Get rid of part timers and people that do not use their licenses. Thirdly, make sure when other zone fish in other zones, they fish the right number of tags in that zone. Shut down lobstering until we get it right.
- 632 Zone E should be at the 800 trap limit. Any further trap reductions will only put the lobster industry closer to a socialized system where no one can afford to support themselves entirely from lobstering.
- 633 The ALWTRP will be devastating, the new rope used will get chafed up and have to be replaced after weeks of fishing. The traps lost will be thousands more and never be retrieved by accidental snagging or dragging back. Left to be ghost fishing!
- 634 The resource is healthy. The state's trawl survey and recruitment survey all say the resource is healthy. It's time to leave the fishermen alone. We put back as much as we take!!! We need the state's help with fighting the whale regulations. There is no need of it. There is no problem with whales Down east. The lobstermen will be extinct before the whales are. What the whale huggers fail to see is that the fishermen would be much more valuable if they were seen as an asset instead of an enemy. As you have seen the huggers will laugh at and disregard this.
- 635 Recreational licenses now. Stop, they all add up.
- 636 The sooner this happens, the better. Please do something soon. As long as we freeze the tags, 400 traps will work. Some people will disagree, but do it anyway. It's the best thing for the industry right now. I would go to 400 tomorrow.
- 637 We should make a 500 trap limit and no part timers and recreational. Raise the price for full time licenses, if need be for money.
- 638 I'm in favor of leaving it the way it is.

639	I am too old to make any difference! Thank you!
640	I would like to see an effort in controlling the piece of our product, so that we one again make a profit. I don't agree with the new federal regulations on our diesel fuel and we're out of control on their prices.
641	How can this island survive if the government keeps reducing the amount of traps we fish? There should have been limited entry before trap reduction. I could not support a stern man with fewer traps, putting me alone in a boat in rough weather. Is that safe? Do not think that the Monhegan experiment has any relevance. They extended their season into the best fishing months, there are how many of them? We have enough obstacles to overcome already. I certainly feel over regulated already. How do you think we could pay our mortgages, fuel bills, and raise our children? If you must limit us more, then think about a buy back program. Limit entry.
642	Government again has opened up a big can of worms. Too many biologists on the government dole.
643	Although I am worried about the number of traps fished in my area, I do not feel we can make ends meet with the smaller trap limit that is being talked about. There are pros and cons to all questions raised here on this survey, but the bottom line is the economics of the industry that will prevail on how we do business. I feel by a lower trap limit now, the whale people will only make it less after. They do a 50% reduction in end line, we may end up with half the gear, if we do a lower limit first and they do it to us again.
644	People who can't make it with 800 traps could surely fail with less gear. This could cause very hard times for the people to survive, some think to the benefit of themselves, by having less fishermen. The state has too many laws to try to fix a problem caused years ago by the whole trap limit idea. The times are going to change no matter what we do about trap limits. With the overall economy in poor shape, it is going to be hard to make it on a luxury product that will only sustain a certain price, and the price of doing business will only increase.
645	If you take float rope and floats away, this business has no future. I can't fish without floats. The arbitrary line set for no float rope or floats to the south is set right outside Carver's Harbor. If that were moved south of Seal Island, it would ease matters considerably.
646	Less people fished in each harbor last year, so as a result, the catch was less. Fishing is cyclic. So different years, different results.
647	If you reduce traps by a percentage, the lobstermen with 600-700-800 traps will still have a lot of traps. The lobstermen for 50 or 100 traps will have none or not enough to stay lobstering.
648	The state needs to stop issuing new licenses to people who have not held licenses before. Except, in families where person(s) applying for a license, father, grandfather, mother, or others have held a valid fishing license for a period of at least 10 years. A grandfathered license, you could say. Also leave the trap limit alone for at least 5 years.
649	Before Zone E is required to lower its 600 trap limit, the other zones should come down to 600 to create an equal playing field. Students should count for entry: exit ratios. Once latent tags are no longer an issue, a trap transfer program should be established with a conservation tax. Tags/licenses can be addressed continually, but it brings down to needing fewer people in the fishery.
650	A good lobsterman tending his/her traps inshore doesn't need more than 500 traps. Offshore, I really don't have an experienced opinion. I fished and owned a small lobster buying station in Little River in East Boothbay from 1987 - 1999. I am 77 years old and have fished in Massachusetts and Maine for the best part of 42 years. This is one of my passions and I will continue to for as long as my body allows. Protecting this resource is extremely important. I will fish 150 traps seriously this year because we have sold our sporting camp to the Chewonki Foundation and will be functioning from our home in Hancock.
651	Full time lobstermen should have the higher limit/percentage (ex. 600). Part time or seasonal fishermen should have a lower limit (ex. 400). Eliminate all recreational licenses.

- 652 What we are experiencing is poor management due to unintended consequences from recent regulation. You have over lapsed new zone boundaries, over traditional geographical boundaries, preserving a more natural distribution of effort. You created zones to facilitate local management, than gave them no power to manage (exzone F presented from using 5/1 ratio, initially. Limitations of student-class one licenses decided at state level not at the zone level. I believe most DMR/Maine Patrol decision are more (illegible) than for purposes of management/effort reduction. When the Commissioner allows a lobsterman who has harvested thousands of pounds of V notch, short and seed lobsters back into Zone F. Without maximum sentence/life-long ban, what good is further trap reduction. When Marine Patrol fails to get the evidence to prove which significant local restaurants were buying and processing these lobsters and publicly express them for what they are doing. How will the state discourage these activities in the future on a commercial scale? Why create new laws to enforce when current laws are poorly pursued? Why relate more incentive to cheat by reducing tags when there is a preception, in general. Rule breakers are seldom caught, and lightly punished. How many years has a large Portland lobster boat fished illegal traps and was only caught this year with a month suspension at a time he would have made no money?
- 653 There are too many traps in the water. There are too many fishermen. This is my only source of income. The state of Maine had let too many people into my fishery.
- 654 The ALWTRP plan will not work east of the Milbridge area. We have much larger tides down east and the bottom is much more rocky and jagged. We will not be able to use that rope down here. It will put us out of business very quickly!
- 655 We need to do something now!
- 656 In Zone A, it would be easier to manage if the zone was split up to represent each area fished. That way, the area you fish could be more defined by how many traps and fishermen are there. We would be better able to make reductions in traps and licenses in that area. Also, a choice of fishing state waters or federal waters would be a good option in reducing effort.
- 657 It's unreasonable to expect just Maine fishermen to support the kind of effort reduction I think is necessary if the reduction isn't universal in the industry. Maine fishermen would be at a competitive disadvantage. The effort reduction would have to be applied to all federal effort and in all fishing states.
- 658 ALWTRP is going to hurt many more fishermen than whales that would be saved. The decrease in lobster prices, increase in bait and fuel will hurt all. The rope will sink everyone.
- 659 If you do not make 80% of your living as a fisherman, you should not have a license. People who get 800 tags a year and only fish 50-100 traps should not have a license. Keep construction workers and people who only fish one or two months a year off the water.
- 660 Why not see if some guys would be willing to cap themselves, say for insurance. Myself, I'd be willing to cap at 600 tags. The next guy might want 800, but another might only need 250.
- 661 We need help from the government for our fishing community!
- 662 If you want to remove traps out of the water then do away with the non-commercial licenses. They are always the ones getting caught taking the shorts and non legal lobsters back to their cottage for a cook-out. Reduce effort by putting a 4:00pm curfew in effect until October with no night hauling after that. Easy for Marine Patrol to enforce.
- 663 As I have been a fisherman for my entire life, I am strongly against a trap reduction. I will not be able to provide for my family with less than 800 traps. Many fishermen in Vinalhaven will not be able to survive. People will not be able to afford to live, homes will be foreclosed on, and people will have to go on welfare. To be honest, the thought of reducing traps angers me with the thought that I will not be able to provide for my family. If you want to make changes, you should change things to help support the fishermen: lower prices of bait and fuel and raise the price of lobster. Trap reduction is ludicrous and I will never support it along with my fellow fishermen in my community.
- 664 So many of the so called "Big Boy Fishermen" are suckering you people and are fishing 880 traps. They should be checked more often when you (the warden) see trap tag 798, then you know they're full of crap. 800 is the limit, but they all fish 880. Save the industry a little better. have no fishing on Sunday during July, August, and September when lobsters come out, not June, July, and August. There's no lobsters in June.
- 665 I brought up the latent effort tag/license issue at out Zone C meeting this last winter. I feel that we need to get rid of the licenses that have not shown landings. We need to get rid of the licenses that never leave the closet before we move forward with more restrictions. I have seen more lobsters this spring that I have in the past 6 - 8 spring seasons. We are doing a great job with our conservation efforts.
- 666 I worked my tail off to get my license. I am a 4th generation license holder and currently would fall under the latent effort category. I would be some sour if the three years of apprenticeship I had to do to get my license ended up being for nothing and the state takes my license!

667	If the state is going to reduce effort, don't do (illegible). Don't cut latent effort. Not affecting the stock, no biological benefits. Don't turn lobster into industry dominated by those exploiting the stock the most. This is small, independent fishery - keep it that way. Too many isolated coastal towns need lobstering to survive and not become tourist traps.
668	I feel you are trying to put the little guy out of business. Deal with the guys that are using loop holes to fish 1,600 traps or more before you screw the little guys.
669	I think we need to determine what number of lobstermen the resource is capable of sustaining. Then allow no new entrants, until that number is reached. I'm of the opinion that taking traps away would seriously jeopardize us in the short term, therefore making the long term moot.
670	Any new laws should be fair to all fishermen and not helping the bigger, already established. Stopping the younger man from getting going would hinder the industry for the future. I know some would be 4th or 5th generation lobstermen that cannot go because of the bulls*** laws already in place. I think that's unfair.
671	There are a lot of problems in the lobster industry. We should have the same lobster laws up and down the whole east coast. That means every state is the same. We should have the same striped bass laws up and down the east coast. In every state, striped bass are way too over protected. They eat a pile of lobsters, I know this for a fact.
672	If the state would leave all rules alone, the business will fend for itself
673	Many fishermen have already taken many traps out of the water. Those should not be impacted again, target those fishermen who have come into the industry after the first round of trap cuts. I have done my part with the trap reduction. It's the departments fault there are million more traps in the water. There should have never been trap cuts without closing the fishery to new licenses. License holders who have already sacrificed traps, in the name of conservation, should be exempt from any further trap cuts that might come. Stop new trap disbursement immediately with the exception of students.
674	A trap limit on all fishermen for 400 traps in the water. Swan's Island did it and was happy with the results. The pressure on the industry is too much. If source fishermen have gone too deep , let them work things out. 400 traps is plenty.
675	There are many boats in Portland fishing more than 800 traps and I'm sick and tired of it. Recently, there has been some enforcement but I'm amazed we all look the other was as we all know who is doing it. The is unacceptable to me. I play by all the rules and I've had 3 consecutive bad years. I'm very concerned about my future, as this is all I've ever known. We need more enforcement from Marine Patrol, starting immediately.
676	I have reduced from 1400 to 800 traps, while people who fish only part of the year have built to 800. If there is a cut in traps, they should be the ones. To make it fair, we will not be able to go 12 months a year on less than 800.
677	ALWTRP rules, using sink rope between traps, have already created a negative impact on my fishing gear. Traps have been hung down or chaffed off. With the average age of lobstermen getting older, a trap limit would be good for the newer lobstermen to start and may be proactive to help or keep the industry moving along.
678	I think lifelong residents that have fishing and lobstering in their families should have first refusal/dibs on fishing in that same town. What I have seen, there are many out-of-towners that jumped in when the first license squeeze and tags system came. Now there is at least double the traps in the area. At times, I don't even recognize the buoy colors. I know a large group of people have this very same opinion and would say the same thing.
679	Something has get to be done now! I am seeing short lobsters everywhere this year, but something must be done and freezing licenses is a step in the right direction.
680	Before you can have a real trap limit, you have to change the loop hole where one man can have more than one boat. Owner/operator would take care of this problem.
681	Although I do not support a total freeze on trap tags, I do support a limited increase of tags annually. Similarly, I don't want entry freeze, but I would increase the retiree/new issue rate.
682	A full time fisherman should have 800 traps, a part time fisherman should have 300 traps, and the fishermen that have 2 or 3 jobs should have to choose one license. If we full time fishermen can only get one license, they (part timers) should only get one license. You should be 17 before you can hold a license. A lot of the young kids with licenses can't even begin to haul their own traps. The ALWTRP is a bunch of bull.
683	I think it would be unfair to ask us fishermen that already took a big hit to give up more traps (people that has 1,200). I think if anyone has to give up traps, it should be the new guys that got in it in the last 6 or 7 years. They haven't given up anything.

684	The DMR should worry about harsher fines for those who do wrong. They should forget about the trap limits. The DMR should try to promote lobstering and get the whale lovers off our backs. We produce jobs for DMR and all they do is try to eliminate ours. For all the money the state wastes on stupid ideas or put people into ignorant jobs, why not try to help us. It is time DMR starts listening to what the fishermen think about their industry instead of some college punk who knows nothing about the industry.
685	I just left the Swan's Island zone to have 800. I have fished the limit of 475 for 10 years. When I left, I had to build up to 800 like someone that just got a license. This year I can have 675 plus 10%. That is why I support across the board due to my situation. A trap reduction will only work if you stop letting more fisherman in. That is why Swan's Island trap limit does not work. It started with 12,000 traps and it now has around 30,000. To many new fishermen.
686	Trap limit didn't work before and won't work now. The only way I support it is eliminating non-active licenses and stop giving new licenses out. Looking at the list of zone and area nominations. I can name a dozen on the list in my area that don't fish!! Why should we keep giving out licenses under any conditions when I can't get a scallop license? Survival of the fittest, only the strong survive. The problem of (illegible) is taking care of itself. Less people are fishing during less profitable months and others are getting out of it because expenses are so high.
687	On the questions about reducing the traps, I think the reduction should be on those that have fished less than 5 years and also those that use lobstering as a supplemental income. And as far as the latent effort, with out question, use it or lose it!
688	How about a buy back of latent tags/licenses instead of cutting back full time fishermen, by that I mean people who lobster fish for their sole means of income.
689	Fuel and bait will have a impact on fishing this year for many fishermen.
690	500 trap limit and enforce it with Marine Patrol checking more of the big offshore fishermen that are over the 800 trap limit.
691	Instead of spending millions on whale saving material, why don't the whale rule people put a surcharge on licenses to buy GPS units for each right whale since they seem to know right where they are all the time.
692	Why do you ask the same question 5 times in a row? Ask questions about people hauling other people's gear. Right whales are not in danger of lobster fishermen. Lobstermen are in danger of the right whale. Increase the state limit back to 6 miles or 12 miles. Don't give out extra tags, you want 800 per person, only issue 800 tags. I can't believe no one uses the tags to increase their count to 880 traps.
693	We need to reduce the number of lobstermen and the number of traps. There is no way that it can continue the way it is now. I would support a government assisted buy out and job training program. I think this would keep everyone happy. We need to reduce the work force to half what it is now.
694	The new whale law sucks when most of the bottom is rocky. Changing to sink rope is really not a good idea, more lost traps, hang downs. I think more research is needed before this takes affect.
695	I fish shallow water and expect to see a lot of fisherman threatened by these reduction plan only to pressure me more. There will be a ripple effect negatively targeting the small time fisherman. Just so you know, this industry is becoming quite "socialized" and I teach economics, and I know what that means.
696	As a young lobsterman in this business, I think they should leave it the way things are. Lowering the trap limit will not help anything. What is the average age of a lobsterman? There are 7 young men under 30 in my area. What is going to happen when all the old farts are gone? Me with 300 traps, does that make any sense? Because "all" lobstermen are so independent that all the answers you are going to get are going to be all different. I would like to fish for lobster for the next 50 years. And now here I am with all these restrictions and I don't know what to do! I wish they would leave everything alone and let the business take care of itself. Lobstering is Maine's baby, don't screw it up. I've seen what happens to the dragging industry and what the rules did to help, nothing! Because people had banner years in the end of 1990 and into 2000. Look at the landings from the 60's and 70's/80's. Take that average, not the best years and expect that every year. So please leave the business to some young people to help Maine keep this baby alive.
697	There have been poor fishing years in the past and there probably always will be. Why do we think that we have to fix something that has always been a trend. These things always take care of themselves. Leave it alone!
698	Enough is enough. 800 traps allows me to work as hard as I need to. Lowering the limit is wrong. I've complied and any more of this is going to put me out of business. This is a way of life for me and most of the coast and I hate to see where this is headed. I believe the state of Maine is against me and the rest of us. This is truly sad.
699	I feel that a lobster license should be treated like a lobster permit! You should be able to sell your license. That's the only way you can get into lobstering, unless you are fathered into it.
700	I would like to see 400 state wide. The price of bait and gas is killing us.

701	800 traps is hard enough to make a living with including all the regulations we already have. The recent cost of expenses rising all the time is taking enough out of the profits. Freezing new licenses is the only option to reduce traps if necessary!
702	Here on Swans Island we have a 475-trap limit and have done our part. We should not be cut back at the same percentage. If the state decided to go that route, a state-wide trap limit is the answer.
703	I would support limiting who can get a new license. The laws we have now do not address larger fishermen having their children and wives' traps! In other words, if he/she does not fish his/her own traps, they should not have a license that supports 800 trap tags. Also, children under 18 should not have more than 400 traps, maybe even 200 traps.
704	I am in a situation with DHHS. I've been fishing since I was 10 years old and that makes me a 35 year veteran of this industry and I'm facing a shut down. I need help to get back to work.
705	Open up the quotas on dogfish. I believe they are eating small lobsters and crabs and need to be removed from the Gulf of Maine.
706	I fish 475 right now and if it was 400 state wide, it would be great.
707	Hard to cut a fisherman that doesn't have enough anyway.
708	I think that due to the island communities getting smaller, that islands should be given their own zones. I don't agree with all of the whale stuff.
709	I believe the biggest problem is in the current fishermen actually following the rule. Not many are honest. We need a bigger effort on enforcement. We also need bigger punishments for those caught doing illegal things. No exceptions.
710	There are a few license holders in my zone that do not lobster at all. I think that if they don't fish or use their license, they should get out or be forced to get out. Have their license taken.
711	I think lower everyone's traps is a very time with the incline of prices for everything going up around us. I do think freezing what lobster licenses are issued would be better at this time, give freezing of licenses a few years to work instead of giving full time lobstermen less traps and letting everyone into the industry.
712	There are too many traps in the water. Just as many lobsters can be caught with less traps, which requires less bait and fuel.
713	Eliminating latent effort tags has nothing to do with lowering harvesting efforts. It's irrelevant if they have a license and tags and are not fishing. So what!
714	Limit the number of licenses allowed with a trap reduction. Student licenses and hobby licenses are a joke. The internship should be required then entry on limit with a tag freeze.
715	Do away with all ratio-entry quotas for commercial licenses. Instead, raise the price of a lobster license to \$1,000 and trap tags to 20 cents for residents only. This will get latent licenses and tags out. It will also reduce the number of part timers.
716	The DMR Biologist's doesn't know what they're doing or the impact of what they're saying about trap reduction. You want reduction, remove the 5-trap people out of the business. They don't follow the law anyway.
717	All zones should reduce to 300 traps per individual and freeze tags at 300 immediately for new fishermen. Entry should be frozen until the catch has risen 25%. Also cut the season to May 15 to December 15.
718	I believe effort reduction would help everybody in the long run. I believe with less effort, we would catch approximately the same amount of lobsters. I do believe that trap effort reductions would impact my bottom line, but how much, I'm not sure. I fish 800 traps year round. I have an advantage in the late fall, early winter, part of the season, because I consistently tend 400-500 traps a day, where others can only tend 300-350, or less. But probably when you add everything up--less bait, less fuel, less overhead for gear--the end of the year difference may not be that great. If I had to make a decision, I would support a 600 trap (or less, maybe) limit. But I don't believe in a tiered system. (I think this is what the survey means by "proportionately.") A person has to be given a chance to make a living and determine his own effort within a fair-equitable system. I'm always amazed at those fishermen who are self-proclaimed libertarians, conservatives (no government interference), who be cry regulations and yet they don't hesitate to limit other people's efforts or access to the fishery. If I fished in zone C or D, I might feel differently. But since our trap reduction to 800 in my area, there has been a decrease in effort and less crowding on the water. Also, If you look at the demographics of our loop, ten of our fishermen are in their 50's, some pushing 60, four in their 40's, two in their 30's and two in their 20's. Based on this, effort is only going to decrease over the next decade. P.S. If we must limit traps and it satisfies "conservation efforts" for the whale crowd, then I would support it. But I'm not sure anything will satisfy NMFS or the groups opposing the fishing industry.
719	Before cutting the number of traps from people who do it to make a living, eliminate the part-time fisherman and all of the recreational licenses!

720	I don't support any cutback unless the issue of latent licenses and trap buildup is addressed first. After the trap reduction of the late 90's, there are more traps in the water in Zone F-1 than ever. This is ending up as a part time fishery. It that's what the state wants then keep cutting up the pie and put us all out of business.
721	The fisheries, including lobstering, are a public resource. These resources provide fishermen with a means to be independent and provide for their families. It is essential that the resource is sustainably managed, However, that management strategies must manage the resource and not the people who are providing the service of getting the resource to the public for consumption.
722	Trap limits will ruin this industry. You are taking the tools away from the people who need them to make a living. Since 1995, trap limits have put more traps and people into the industry. Get rid of the part time double dippers, retired pensioned, and any other dubs that don't make 100% of their living from lobstering.
723	I support that the state not allow anymore new comers into the industry. I do not support lowering the amount of traps of anyone that's has their whole life invested into this industry and count on it to feed their families. Please do not turn Maine lobstering into a part time job.
724	Traps are not the problem, it's the number of new people that are trying to make lobstering a livelihood. A lot of these are not skilled and don't understand how to fish. Support the lobstermen that make all of their living from fishing. Support fishing families. Get rid of all the commercial fishing licenses to anyone that doesn't make 100% of their living from fishing.
725	I feel at this time no action needs to be taken.
726	10 questions - 7 about reduction?
727	Freeze the recreational licenses, also they appear to violate hauling time and lobster size laws more frequently.
728	The easiest way to solve the problem is make it so that a lobsterman has to prove that he makes 75% of his living from commercially harvesting lobsters.
729	I believe there should be an immediate reduction to 600 traps. I also firmly believe they should do away with student licenses or at least diminish the maximum student trap limit to 50.
730	Lobstering is being way over done, cut back now before it's too late. Fishermen are killing themselves trying to out do each other. Some come in way after dark sets in.
731	Stop double gangs. Choose inside fishery or federal fishery, not both. Stiffer penalty on short lobsters and trap molesting.
732	Get rid of the recreational licenses. Worst idea in the history of ideas!
733	If the trap limit is lowered, it should be the same for every fisherman. Tags and licenses not being used, should be forfeited. If 75% of your income doesn't come from fishing, you should be declared a hobby fisherman and only be allowed to fish 300 traps during the summer months.
734	800 traps is perfect. Just don't allow more traps in freeze tags.
735	I hope you don't rely too much on input from lobstermen at public hearings. The loudest and most opinionated are likely to be the ones who think they own the ocean and have little respect for other lobstermen or the general boating public. They don't necessarily speak for lobstermen as a whole and are most likely to tamper with the gear of those who don't share their opinion. Since lobster gear is so vulnerable, it is not simply a question of standing up to these guys. I have the maximum 600 tags for my zone. Recent years of record harvest have led to a gold rush attitude among some lobstermen. They are heavily over-vested trying to gobble up a limited public resource. They fish so hard and so fast that they are taking the joy out of this wonderful tradition for themselves and for others around them. Allowing them to set the rules for the lobster industry is like letting the fox guard the chicken coop. Historically, most Maine lobstermen also farmed, built boats and had a variety of other pursuits. That was a better way than today.
736	They need to ban night hauling.
737	Where I fish, all my traps will be hung down on the ALWTRP bottom. That, I think, would be real bad.
738	I think this questionnaire did a poor job of addressing effort reduction. There are many opinions on effort reduction, such as closed seasons that were not even touched on. This went out before zone councils could ever address and discuss effort.
739	I think that the double tagging rule should be eliminated, or at least shortened by a different line, giving more freedom offshore. Those of us that choose to go that far should be able to fish like anyone else with (illegible) area/permit. Possibly allow the transfer of traps among family members or make it possible to buy trap tags from an individual but make it so you need to retire some of the traps transferred up to a certain amount.
740	Because of the trap limits, the number of traps in zone E has increased. Yes, that is right. The number of traps has increased. I believe any enforced registration will have an opposite effect on the lobster fishery. That is how much the state government has messed things up! If you can't enforce the regulations, you have now punished those who follow the laws with more.

741	I think it is everyone right to get into the fishing industry. As soon as the lobsters decrease, you will see more and more fishermen leave the industry. But like always, it will be the small fishermen and not the large ones. If the government hadn't stepped in and started this mess, we wouldn't have had as many traps in the first place. (Illegible) enforcing the laws we already have.
742	I favor moving zone D to a 500-600 trap limit of a state-wide 600 trap limit. The current fishing effort is extreme. We need to protect the future of lobster fishing. Please do not wait until it is too late! You must act now!
743	If you want to reduce effort, eliminate stern men.
744	I think the fishermen who came down from 1200 traps to 800 traps have taken a big enough loss to support industry stability (25% of income), they should be left alone. Let the fishermen who have not removed one trap from the industry or added to it do it this time, then see if they still vote for it.
745	Not only lower everyone else, set a freeze on how many going from student/apprentice can have. This can cut a number of traps as well.
746	If question #6 was to be enacted, it wouldn't be fair to fishermen who didn't have their full 800. If it was to be passed, what about new entrance of 300 tags. It wouldn't be fair. The real problem is this industry. Right now, the majority of fishermen are over capitalized.
747	I feel, with the cost of everything, we could make more money out of less traps. I also feel the laws should be the same for everybody, inshore or off shore, US or Canada. The price of lobsters is too low and the price of everything else is too high. The way everything is going up, we are being forced out of business. We need to get more money for our lobsters.
748	I have fished since I was five. I am 39 now. I watched the state take traps from long-time fishermen--say they fished 1600 traps--and lowered them to 800, and then gave out licenses to part timers. This made more traps in the water than years before. All you did was limit one and give to the other. If you would like help managing this industry, let me help. I have never seen a whale inside 25 miles, either.
749	The 5 trap license should be done on a lottery, like they do with deer and moose permits. That would help reduce effort. Also, the state should make it so license holders have to haul and set their own gear and also run their own boat. There are too many husbands and their wives that fish and the husbands fish all the traps and the wife is on the back of the boat filling bait bags, The wife should haul too. Students should also have to go on some kind of waiting list. It is impossible to reduce effort if kids are able to enter the fishery and have 800 traps. I have a child and I would like nothing more than to see her fish, but I think the students program needs some kind of limit. If it doesn't happen, we are wasting our time.
750	Husband and wife teams - If the wife wants to fish her own traps the way it's set up now, if they can afford 2 boats, the husband gets twice the limit. Students can't get help. If you choose to fish/haul your own traps, I feel in our area, this would get rid of at least 600 traps.
751	I feel that if we were able to fish 200 vertical lines with float rope tailors between the exemption line and the 3 mile line that would help. Also, there should be more enforcement of the already existing laws plus random drug testing.
752	Leave things be on the trap limits. The simple cost of doing business will take care of effort reduction.
753	If you lower the trap limit more people will get 2 boats so it wouldn't do any good. Unless the person who has the tags has to run the boat.
754	I think everything should be left alone. The price of lobstering will weed out some fishermen. Then, let the exit: entrance ratio start to work. I think 800 traps is a fair number to fish.
755	It would be nice if all our state fisheries had support like the lobster fishery. The state won't buy the sea urchin fishery a stamp. Lobstermen are greedy. Buyers are corrupt. MLA lobbyists run Augusta. Shame on you.
756	Over the next few years, the fishery will stabilize with the fishermen who are trying to make the "easy dollar" getting out of the fishery with the real fishermen still surviving. If it continues with high fuel and bait prices the part timers will find another job!
757	In my opinion, before we look into lowering the trap limit, we should take a closer look at the current 800 limit. Possibly with stepped up enforcement and stricter penalties for cheaters. The current limit would be much more effective. Also, the 80 replacement tags on an 800 tag order could be issued in a different manner and not as part of the original order.
758	In my opinion, letting the federal offshore fishery for many years deplete the large seeder lobsters with no oversize maximum shell limit and not honoring the V-notch is by far the biggest reason lobstering is decline also the big peak gears there have been no predators, i.e. cod, haddock, etc which has lied to us on the resource. I have never seen so many young female eggars. Where have all the large female eggars gone? The federal management has destroyed the large breeder stock which back filled the inshore waters, Just go out on Cape Cod in the past years and see all the notchers and females for sale. The average size of offshore lobster has declined drastically within the past 15 years.
759	ALWTRP will be the end of fishing for the state of Maine. All it will do is put twice as many single traps in the water rather than half the rope and two traps. Singles will create a barrel in the water of ropes.

760	The state of Maine has allowed way too many people to be fishing lobster. We need to stop every student that wants a license. Put them on a waiting list as well. Before you cut the number of traps from a fisherman, cut out the recreational trappers. They take a lot of shorts.
761	Increase trap limit. Figure out how many traps are in the water, how many months fished, and how many 12 month fishermen.
762	Increase trap limit. Increase the measure by 1/32 inch. Minimum \$6.00/lb price plus cost of doing business increase each year here after.
763	I started 3 years ago with 300 traps and I've made it work . I think that 400 - 600 traps would be the way to go. If I could make it work, anybody can. So yes, I support a reduced trap limit.
764	I think you need to close the loop hole of guys fishing more that one boat and 1,600 tags.
765	I have to 475 trap limit already, that's why I'm not for the percentage.
766	I feel that retired people and people with other jobs don't need to fish 800 traps. There should be more effort on people fishing over limit. The licenses was supposed to have been frozen 10 years ago, now all the state has done is out more fishermen and traps in the water.
767	Please allow the over abundance of laws and regulations to work before implementing anymore! Understand that young people have invested their lives and savings into this business and you ask if they should have less tools to do the job! Sensitive subject. I say leave it alone!
768	Shouldn't go by percentage. Everyone is not at the same level of tags. Would not be fair to all fishermen.
769	I feel the entrance of young lobstermen through student licenses into full lobster fishing is a horrible effort on behalf of the DMR in it's management of the industry. The young lobstermen have not had to work on another boat, learning the value of duty and respect upon other individuals fishing. What I am seeing is a group of new and future fishermen that are thieves and crooks fishing upon state waters. It is also time to eliminate non-commercial lobster licenses.
770	I feel that the whole whale safe rope will cost everyone down east to loose traps due to catching on the rock bottom.
771	Fuel plus bait plus the price we get for the lobsters is a real issue, as well. It would be nice to have a lobster price regulated to off set expenses.
772	I think that part time fishermen should get less tags than someone who fishes for a living or fishes 12 months out of the year. So, year round or not at all. Or if you fish 6 months out of the year, you set 400 traps to fish.
773	I believe stopping all new fishermen from entering this fishery. Moratorium on new licenses, grandfather all fishermen's children.
774	There needs to be less traps in the water in my zone. No more 2 boats. Students that want to do lobstering should have the chance to go if they want. No more licenses to people that want to get into lobstering that are from distant towns.
775	The problem isn't with the traps or tags, it's with letting more and more into lobstering. Let's take a break and stop handing out licenses for a while. I'm doing it for a living and have been for years. I need my 800 traps!
776	Leave stuff alone. Find out what the effort is before trying to limit it. If you want to reduce somebody, reduce your "part timers," not your full-time fisherman.
777	I think that dropping the number of traps from 800 to 600 in zone 1A and 2A would help in people tending their gear, more efficient, and would have less tangles with other gear on high running tides, whether you are fishing inside or outside, inshore or offshore.
778	Limit the hours allowed to fish, making it easier to patrol. Close some waters in the winter.
779	There should be a trap limit.
780	I think that there needs to be more study of trap reduction before all the talk about Monhegan trap reduction. This has been the best winter and spring in years. How does anyone base a study on 1 year? The FOA doesn't, so why does the DMR Biologist think it is so great? Also, what happens to all the small lobsters on the bottom if half the bait supply from bait bags in traps is taken away? Won't the big lobsters push the little ones out? I think there is a lot more research and studying that needs to be completed before this discussion becomes serious.
781	Due to current operating costs, latent license should not be bothered. Long term license holders may not be able to afford to fish and should not be penalized. I do support a 600 trap limit per boat and I would hope that it will be enforced unlike the current limit.
782	People who are full timers shouldn't be cut back, as to someone who works a full time job. These people put a drain on the system which makes it hard on someone who makes a living off the sea.
783	More singles are being fished to avoid tangles, thus adding to more vertical lines and buoys. All this gear is a hazard to navigation. We need to keep marked channels clear. Eventually, the industry will be held liable when this congestion causes an accident. By severely reducing trap limits, we will solve a lot of problems and still catch as many lobsters. Also, as fishermen have increased their investment, they will become desperate to meet their financial obligations. Many will resort to taking small lobsters. The fishery could go into a tail spin. law enforcement needs to be more vigilant.
784	In the 1950's and 1960's, we all fished 300 traps and our best lobstermen fished 170 traps year round. We fished on 1 night set. This whale stuff is ridiculous. I have never seen a right whale.

785	Fuel and bait prices will probably set the trap limit itself.
786	Put students and apprentices on the same list. Allowing unlimited/unrestricted entry of students while cutting entry of apprentices is crazy! Only a few of them are "getting in" each year. Considering the Department's trap experiments on Monhegan Island and the success of trap limits on Swan's Island, lower the limit from 800 to 500. We'll save bait, fuel, and trap expenses, catch the same amount of lobsters and take more rope out of the water. I fish 800 and it's stupid!
787	Any attempt to work toward eliminating latent effort would cause those licenses to be come active and thus increase effort. A total freeze on tags would not allow younger fishermen to earn a living for their family. There should be a small build up over time for younger fishermen.
788	The questions contained in this survey make clear the direction with which DMR is headed in implementing regulatory changes focused on trap reduction and decreasing fishing effort. Like many others, I feel as though my opinion is of little consequence however I sincerely hope that the input obtained from this survey will be seriously considered and not simply an act of going through the motions. While I support the continued monitoring of the fishery, I do not support any regulatory changes at this time. If this were to happen, it would be premature in nature and prove detrimental to the fishing industry. I would like to request that the survey results be posted on the DMR website by district, along with a list of the comments received.
789	There are too many traps in the water due to too many lobstermen, not too many tags per person. If you lower the trap limit, it is not going to help us because there are still too many lobstermen, around 150 in the harbor I fish out of. With all the other things working against us, lowering the trap limit would ruin us.
790	I have 3 sons and 2 daughters. We live on an island and fishing is a way of life out here. I can not vote my kids ability to fish away. My kids will be the 8th generation fishermen!
791	What does it matter about filling out surveys. The lobstermen are going to have to do what the state, the federal government, and special interest groups want. When is the state or federal government going to step in and stand up for our rights. The way I see it is as long as the special interest groups get what they want, it's ok. The way things are going, most fishermen will be on welfare and food stamps. I guess it is a pretty sad day when out of staters and special interest groups have more right than we do. So when is somebody going to start standing up for the fishermen. This goes for state and federal politicians. With the cost of living going up along with gas and diesel fuel and bait, I can't understand cutting the trap limit. I think it would put a lot of fishermen out of business. Maybe someone should look into how many stern men will be out of work and full time fishermen because of the lower trap limits.
792	Stop non-commercial!
793	Some recreational fishermen seem to be using more traps that they are supposed to.
794	It keeps on going on and on, you start with a measure, the license, then vents, and tags, then a limit on traps, the break aways, now different fishing styles because of rope and break aways for toggles. I guess the saying is right, the nice guy finishes last. You or I as a fisherman are asked our opinion. But it never really matters. I feel with the expenses of converting over with the rope and break aways and the economy, my way of making a living will end on the water.
795	Set a season for fishing. I feel that offshore and inshore is too much year round pressure on the industry.
796	If total amount of tags per fisherman goes down to 600 tags, this is going to be come a part time industry. We need to cut back the number of new licenses being issues and find a better way of marketing lobsters to sustain a better price per pound.
797	I think 500 traps per boat and the whole family can use that boat.
798	Should be checking on 2 license fishing on 1 boat to make sure they aren't fishing over 800 traps.
799	Outside lobster permits should not be able to be sold. Only hand down between families. Also more V-notch released and we need a lobster cooking processing plant that does flash freezing.
800	I purchase more tags than I use every year because I intend to fish 500 traps when I retire in a few years. I don't trust that 500 tags will be available to me unless I purchase them every year. I fish 175 traps now. There are about 325 tags with no effort tied to them on my part. That's not a bad thing. DMR gets my tag fees and should be happy to get the income with no effort or impact to the fishery!
801	I feel that recreational traps should be eliminated. Some families are fishing quite a few traps. Fishermen now have to go through an apprenticeship for a license and are refused entry. Take the recreational traps out and maybe someone wanting to make a living would be able to fish.
802	Don't leave Zone C the only zone open to everybody.
803	It would seem to me, in these tough economical times that if a person who could not fish his quota of trap tags, while trying to buy or repair gear, he or she could still be able to keep their quota. While not using an available tag, would that not remove lobster catches and consequent stock?
804	Freezing the number of tags without plenty of warning will hurt some that vary year to year for personal reasons.
805	More research needed on predators such as shags, stripers, and seals hurting the lobster population. On numerous occasions I have seen shags eating lobsters.

806	I feel that fishermen who do not earn 75% of their income from fishing should be reduced to 100 traps. This should be done with out warning so these individuals do not have the time to hide where they are making money (or base it on the past 3 years). No students should be getting into the zones without having to wait the appropriate time as everyone else. These individuals are generally harder working and more aggressive then the fishermen around. it is putting more stress on the lively hood than anticipated. I currently fish 2 zones and see the 50% rule being taken advantage of more and more. I could easily show that a large number of boats are fishing most of their gear in the wrong zones. This could dramatically reduce the gear in the water in certain areas. Eliminating tags that are not being used will not help this situation. I am monitoring people who get their license each year and see that the system needs improvement. Zone B is currently at a 3:1 ratio. It seems that most licenses that are given up have not been used (or limited use). So after 3 get done, 1 individual can get into the business. This person generally will have 100% more of an impact than the 3 fishermen combined.
807	I think they should leave the trap limit the way it is. They should take tags from the part timers not us full timers who need the 800 to make a living. A lot of people will not be able to make their payments on less than 800. There are more lobsters now than there ever has been. People cannot go as much because of the price of bait and fuel.
808	I would like 1 fisherman out, 1 in. All new fishermen limited to 600 traps. This would cut the number of traps and save hundreds of jobs. Fishermen getting out would have a chance to sell boats and traps. If this doesn't cut traps enough, maybe in new fishermen, it could be cut more down the road. I would like to get out in a year or two.
809	Yes, in recent years the resource has declined a little, but it is not a negative sign for the industry. Nature and the lobster resource has always run in cycles.
810	I feel that commercial fisherman are being put out of business by restrictions, new rope, vents break aways, this bigger that, less of this, enough is enough! The next thing you know you'll be taking back licenses. I had to spend \$211.00 for a scallop license I probably won't use because the state has taken them back. How is a commercial fisherman supposed to survive with less, given the rising cost of fuel and bait.
811	Trap tags should be bought and sold from one fisherman to another. Anyone should be able to get a license for 5 tags, but over 5, should be purchased from another fisherman with a tag limit for entire state total. No new tags, period. No trap limits.
812	I feel that there should no longer be any admission into the Maine lobster industry. Therefore, no other licenses should be issued to new entrants.
813	Trap limits on Swan island are working for the fisherman and the resource. Monhegan is moving in the right direction with their experiment. Fisherman are being unfairly hit by the environmental groups.
814	Whales in 9 - D not an issue, never seen!
815	I am in an open zone. Zone C, which should be closed to make us the same as everyone else on the coast of Maine. I am from an island and fish very hard, rocky bottom and I fear it will be impossible to fish with sinking tailors. In strong winds and tides, the float rope I have chaffs and frays on the bottom and sometimes I loose traps due to that. So the thought of using sinking (or neutral) rope, which increases the problem, doesn't even work if you fish in different depths all the time. I know that there is no such thing as neutrally buoyant.
816	I think you should freeze everything as it is right now. Put students and everyone on the waiting list and even freeze the waiting list until we see what is going to happen to this fishery. If there is ever a trap reduction, I should hope that licenses will be totally frozen so we don't have to same fiasco that we had with the last trap limit and reduction.
817	I believe anyone who has been caught hauling gear belonging to other people should lose their license for good. This may remove some of the dishonest people and make room for someone that is honest and willing to work hard. I am more worried about the whale issue than anything.
818	Stop people fishing traps for their kids. The kids are home watching cartoons while daddy fishes extra gear. In my area, there's at least 15. Also, a man who "fishes to make ends meet" needs to go. 1 license per boat!
819	We need more traps. Lobsters are like cows, no food, they die. More traps, more food equal more lobsters.
820	No more newcomers. Do not reduce trap limit. Whales aren't problems for fisherman.

821	There has been and large increase in effort in my area due primarily to the unrestricted conversion of student licenses to full time licenses. There needs to be a slowing of this comparable to the apprentice waiting list to slow down the increase in effort. Also, there are many adults with less that 800 tags fishing student traps even when the students are not on board. Students should have a unique buoy pattern and fish student traps from a separate boat to cut down on this abuse. Students also should not receive priority over qualified adults from entering the fishery. I am surprised that no one has filed an age discrimination suit over this issue. If latent tags are eliminated, this will only force those who hold them to put them into use, thus increasing effort. We should be grateful for unused tags. You people should pay more attention to all new licenses being issued, these fishermen who leave their gear out all season/year long, people fishing traps without tags, etc. All these small issues add up. It would be best to take care of these problems first. You should also start to pay attention to those lobstermen that purchase tags and don't use them and those that are fishing in the stern with somebody else. Also, the whole whale thing needs to stop. You people are going to put those of us who really love and have a passion for this career out of business. What are we going to do with the rising costs to operate, fuel, expenses, etc.? Then on top of that, cut our trap limit and then force us to fish specific types of expensive ropes in limited areas?
822	Student license seem to be out of place when people feeding families can't fish. Your recreational people are taking orders for lobsters.
823	I think if you kept New Harbor fishermen on their own bottom , Friendship lobstering would be better. Fishermen are fishing their kids tags out of their kids boat. If you find a way to stop that, there would be less tags in the water.
824	In 1994 we all had to show landings, boat (illegible) to get our licenses. Since then, the State has shoved way too many people into the fishery. The traps are just a symptom, too many fisherman.
825	Across the board decisions do not account with understanding aggressive fishermen from casual ones.
826	If you are going to take away traps, you should take away the 10% of 800. Every one who has the extra 80 tags fishes them.
827	I fish zone E which is reduced to a 600 trap limit.
828	With a trap reduction, you <u>must</u> freeze the number of tags issued. And you <u>should</u> let the lobstermen now fishing increase back to the 600-800 level. Before issuing tags to new licenses, I would hope you learned from the mistake of the last reduction.
829	I think the trap limit should stay the same as long as lobster resource is healthy.
830	No limit will work unless you freeze all new licenses. Eliminate 5 trap licenses.
831	One of the most important questions that should be asked: Do you favor everyone in the fishing industry be required to show that they make at least 75% of their income from fishing?
832	Everyone in Zone D knows that sooner or later we will have to adapt more strict reductions than just looking at the latent licenses, etc. If they don't, they have not even a basic understanding of the way things are going to have to go down in order for there to be a profitable, yet healthy fishery. We will not be able to sustain lobster fishing and 1000 horse power engines on the back of an even fragile resource and rising fuel and bait and trap costs! It is inevitable that this fishery will collapse in ruin if we keep taking the herring, the lobsters, etc at the state we are now and not seriously planning for down cycle years. 500 traps is more than enough to make a decent living and still maintain a healthy fishery.
833	In 1994, the state said they were closing new licenses and today there are far more traps in the water, especially in Zone D. The amount of traps is only a symptom of the problem, which is that the state continued to give out licenses and tags regardless of the voice of the people pre-1994. The state has done a horrible job managing a fishery that they should have protected socially and economically. They should have froze licenses when they said they would.
834	I would like to see trap reducing and freezing entry of new licenses. I don't support any elimination of latent licenses. I've keep my license up for 20 years for retirement use.
835	There is too many recreational lobster licenses! This right whale reduction plan is absolute bull s***. I guarantee every other full time fisherman will agree. By recreational license I mean the guy that has his day job , then fishes 50 - 100 traps. They guy on retirement fishing 100 - 300 traps. The 5 trap license, I feel, is a great idea.
836	Why can't we model our industry in the same way Canada has? This lobster industry must bite the bullet now! The clock is ticking!
837	Less lobsters, scarcer bait, more traps - gently bring down the number of traps in the water for commercial fishermen and don't let (illegible).
838	First thing that should be done is find who hasn't fish for 3 years and remove their license, regardless. Rather than take our traps down.
839	I do not support reducing the number of traps fished, because the number of traps being fished is way off from the number of tags being sent out, due to license holders that have 800 tags, but don't fish a trap or only 100 - 200. I feel these people should forfeit their license or be limited to under 300 traps.
840	Leave things alone. The way things are heading, there will be more people living off the state. When is it going to end!

841	I believe we need to close the entry to our zone. I am fishing 400 traps and would like to see a 400 trap limit on traps fished inside the "exemption line". I think the 800 limit is fine but the other 400 traps should be fished outside the exemption line. This would have a dramatic impact on "Ghost Gear" inside the exemption line, where the rocky bottom parts most of the gear of. First and foremost, I believe that there is no point to talk about limits, changes, or new laws if we don't stop the open entry. If we're going to make a change, let's make a real change. The future looks good to me. Last year, I caught hundreds of lobsters which measured about 5 - 6 inches. Most everyone who fishes where I do said the same thing about their catch.
842	I have been a lobsterman on Swan's Island for 15 years. This is my only income. I employ a year round stern man, which is his only income. We both have lived well for many years. The economic pressures of fuel prices have begun to negatively effect our profit margin. I believe a reduction in traps will off set this.
843	State licenses should never be taken away regardless if they are active or not. The licenses should be sold or passed down like federal licenses.
844	Your effort is 20 years to late! The whale issue is the biggest crock and waste of time and money. I think I should say I know the LAC, MLA, and ALWTRP and the state should go find something else to screw up. Let us do our own job, we don't tell you how to do yours!
845	I really think there should be a trap reduction to 600 across the board. Also, I think you should use your license and tags. I definitely support latent effort.
846	I think 600 traps would do a world of difference in lobsters and our lives. I think it would be a good thing. If we all have 800 tags and more and more people keep coming in, we all should sell out or we will over fish lobsters.
847	If a decrease in trap limits is going to occur, licenses must be frozen first! Otherwise, it will be just another redisbursing of gear and won't take a trap out of the water.
848	Allow selling of licenses.
849	Allow lobstermen to be able to sell their license when they retire!
850	All I care about is if my kids or native kids want to go lobstering, they can.
851	For several years, we have been "lobster farming" on the Sheepscot River--put out bait and the lobsters will come. Same thing inland, up and down the coast. The only "lobster fishing" is outside. This whole regulatory effort by the government is a sham. The fishery was fine until the government regulation started back in the early 90's. Just another example of the bureaucrats ruining another Maine institution.
852	Latent licenses should be removed. There are too many people with trap tags that are not fishing.
853	1 easy way to reduce effort without taking anything from anybody, eliminate the use of 2 stern men (sell licenses that only covers 1 stern man). Another way, close Saturdays and Sundays, June - October. 4:00pm quitting time everyday.
854	I feel that a trap limit across the board is the only way a true conservation effort could truly work. Otherwise, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Thus, the industry as a whole pays the consequences. It wouldn't be fair, hypothetically speaking, that someone with 500 traps (based on a 10% reduction) be forced to reduce to 450, while someone with 800 be forced to only reduce to 720.
855	There should be a program that allows credit for those that previously held a license that lost it due to the non-renewal in 1996/1997. That must get a commercial licenses through the apprentice program that want to fish more that 5 traps, but less than 25 - 50.
856	Freeze on entry. Freeze on non-commercial. Freeze on student licenses.
857	Licenses not being used is a problem. I know of many people who get a license every year and have never fished a day in their life. A trap reduction should have taken place years ago. Also, a freeze on rec. 5 trap licenses should happen too.
858	Lobstermen should be able to sell our licenses when we retire for a retirement plan.
859	I feel 800 traps is barely enough to support a family, any less and a lot of younger fishermen may go under. I have grandchildren and want them to be able to get into the business of lobstering.
860	I'm in the Swan's Island Conservation Area already. We're surrounded by 800 trap limits. Lower the rest to 600 and keep us the same (maybe 400 instead of 475). I use medium sized bait bags and run my boat easy to save fuel and cut costs. The whale rope rules are ridiculous. Move the exemption like 12 miles out or to the 50 fathom curve.
861	Put a freeze on new entry for non-commercial licenses and reduce there trap limit across the board. I don't feel they are monitored enough because and it makes easier for commercial fishermen traps to be molested, because there are more non-commercial fishermen pulling traps. Each boat should have it's own buoy color, and not match their second boats buoy color.
862	There is no need to have sink rope between traps to protect the whales. It is not going to do any good, it is costing fishermen too much and is not necessary.
863	I think having 2 seasons would allow less traps in the water at one time. I think each fisherman should have to choose only 1 season per year. I would like to see the inshore fishermen and the offshore stay offshore. That would help stop some of the big boats fishing the cream in the summer and the cream in the fall.

864	Why do we need to reduce the trap limit in the first place? We need to get rid of people why buy tags and don't fish. That will be our trap reduction.
865	Latent effort provides revenue without putting pressure on the fishery.
866	In 15 years of fishing, I have never seen a whale. The largest economy for Maine is fishing, without it be devastating, destroying many communities. Laws made by people why have never been on the water, all the information comes from a book. The new rope will cost fishermen too much. The rope is faulty. Is Maine about its people or its tourists?
867	You had a 70% or more vote to close licenses in Zone C. How come you didn't close it? Move the whale line out to the 3 mile line.
868	We are doomed unless the price of lobsters increases as fuel and bait have, which will not happen.
869	There are a given amount of lobsters on any bottom. Take traps away, you still have the same production with less bait, less fuel, less pollution, and less lost traps.
870	You hear me right. I now fish 800 traps and I support a 400 trap limit! High fuel and bait will be the down fall of the full time lobsterman. The time to act is now. Please do not delay.
871	Any license not being used is eliminated. Freeze licenses in this zone.
872	The way lobstering is looking, in the future I think I will have to sell everything I own if traps reduce. If something needs to be done, you should stop all new licenses and trap tags increase. The price of lobster is down and the price of bait and fuel is out of hand.
873	All zones should be on a 600 trap limit. No new licenses.
874	It would be nice if families could fish out of one boat and both fish the trap limit.
875	If those with licenses are not using them, who cares. Take the money and run. Should also limit number of traps on Stinger and 3 or 5 state wide. Casco Bay is ridiculous.
876	If the state wants less traps in the water, then they should remove illegal traps currently being fished, for starters. If Marine Patrol did more ride alongs and trap counting, thousands of traps would be out of my zone alone. People are well over 1,000 traps and now nothing is done. By reducing the number of tags, you are penalizing law abiding fishermen. Start with the crooks.
877	The rope controversy is a huge problem.
878	Why does the state of Maine not allow fishermen to sell their licenses like other states? Why don't the lobstermen get to elect the commissioner instead of being appointed? You people in Hallowell have cut us back from 1,200 to 800, yet there are more traps in the water than ever. Stupidity is running rampant!
879	I fish with my grandfather. I have a license, what happens to me when he retires? I plan on fishing his boat.
880	Comments were written, but form the form I received was badly torn and the comments lost.
881	How would you prove what tags are being used? I think licenses should be froze, and we should be able to sell our license for retirement, just like Canada does.
882	There's evidence that lobstering is (illegible). (Check the data on vent less research traps.) The current down (illegible) (illegible) may well be due to decreased effort. Simply put, effort = feed = lobsters. Financial regulation would take care of most harvesting economics (fishing/farming). I suppose once everybody can only fish 100 traps, the government could start to buy lobster boats: zero boats = zero effort = zero feed = ?? Good. I could use the money for my boat to pay the taxes necessary for the purchase. If that equation is true and if it very well be for many reasons, the current regulatory trend is counter productive and bad for the lobster population. The current approach is based on emotion--not science--and to let lobstermen, who are notoriously greedy, regulate themselves--doesn't make much sense. The key issue to the whole industry is bait (feed)--artificial bait = no feed!
883	I hope that the public is aware of what the ALWTRP could and is going to do to the lobster industry and it's fishermen. This is detrimental to many!
884	It is my firm belief that the exemption line should run on the same marks as the 3 mile line, as that whales are rarely sited inside of which. Not only that, but it would have less of an economic effect on those with state licenses who are already having a tough time with the fuel and bait prices. Furthermore, it is a known line that already shows within existing chart plotter/GPS programs. It just plain makes sense.
885	Our zone should increase from 660 to 880, just like everyone else, 300 would be a death sentence!
886	I feel that the existing trap limit needs to be enforced, which is not enforced at all. All recreational licenses should be cut out, obviously they do not obey the laws if they go out and want lobsters right then. Students attending colleges need to have the laws enforced, as they lie about going to college and continue to tend their 150 lobster traps.
887	There needs to be more checking to see if the fisherman are fishing the number of traps that they say they are.

888	The best way to reduce effort is to reduce fishermen. Freezing entry of all new licenses into the fishery is the best long-time option. Zone C is still wide open, with more and more fishermen every year, and kids under 18 can still get a license. The fishery can't continue to support more licenses, period. The flip side of this issue is that reducing the trap limit will make it extremely hard to make a living and many fishermen will go out of business. It's hard enough with 800 traps. 1000 traps would be better. The state of Maine can reduce trap limits all they want. But until they freeze entry, all that will be happening is a transfer of my tags to someone else's. This is wrong. In all honesty, I'm making a fine living. Just because some people can't manage their money and save to get through a few less productive years doesn't mean I should have to give up trap tags. Let lobstering run its course. People will go out of business and effort will be reduced. Just don't give their licenses and tags to someone else. Thank you for your time.
889	I think after this year of fishing, you will see a lot of people out of lobstering, with the price of fuel and bait and everything else around the industry going up. If you can't turn a dollar, there is no sense to go on. That will mean less traps in the water.
890	No control of where to fish in zone, freeze licenses is the answer and existing trap numbers.
891	Do something!
892	Expenses are shutting abilities to function in their industry.
893	Need to tie schedule C or 1099 with lobster license. Anyone who fishes needs to show profit or loss from sales of catch. Unreported sales undermine the industry and suppress market prices. I can't compete with beach market lobsters.
894	Abuse of student licenses: more enforcement needed same with recreational.
895	There is no spring season, you get a haul then its done. You have to fish more traps to keep up when shedders come out. They get caught up, making no lobsters in November to December. We were seeing small stock in May 6, 2008.
896	The lobster fishery in the state of Maine has been a cultural industry passed down from one generation to the next. It is a grave mistake to not allow this family heritage to continue (#9). The children of lobstermen should not be discouraged to continue this family tradition. Ultimately, those fishing families are the backbone of this industry and to freeze entry would encourage their children to find jobs outside the industry. Many towns along the coast depend on lobstering to support their communities, almost completely. Unless the lobster fishery is deemed overfished, then leave this cultural heritage alone. I know I want my children to continue in the lobster industry. My quality of life depends on my children living in Maine. I did not raise my children to grow up and move away because the Department of Marine Resources won't allow them a lobster license. The resource should NOT be limited only to the "high liners" of today. The resource should be for future generations,
897	Keep shrimp draggers outside 3 miles at all times.

898 The "effort" survey I recently received got me thinking about the direction of lobster management and even worse, got me writing about it. So here is my two-cents worth. The DMR is mandated by law to protect and wisely utilize marine resources through various conservation rules and laws that attempt to strike a balance between the fishermen's ability to make a living and the need to ensure that future generations could do the same. It is completely understandable that the department try to involve fishermen, (your council and this survey), to the extent necessary to adopt industry-supported management, but is conservation of the resource taking a back seat to wise utilization of fishermen and social engineering? It would be great if we could enact laws that would ensure a healthy lobster population for years to come and then some more laws to fish less traps, that would result in less expense and about the same catch, resulting in more money in our pocket. Far easier said than done. The economics of the business change from time to time and this may be one of those times. But to consider a law that reduces traps for economic reasons, (less expense and easier on the herring), and no conservation benefit, (some catch), makes no sense to me. When the guy who catches 2 lobsters per trap out of 400 traps, makes more money than the guy catching 1 lobster per trap out of 800, it won't take everyone long to get to 400 traps. A law of economics? When the lobster co-management proposal was debated in the early 1990s, a study was done about the demographics of the lobster fishing industry, it showed the license distribution by age, and at that time it was discovered the average age of a Maine lobsterman was around 45 years. License holders dropped off dramatically after 60 years of age. It also showed that when the baby boom generation of fishermen cycled out of the fishery, and with the right types of limited entry, the fishery would be much smaller in the future. Why wouldn't we want to update that study before any more limited entry/trap limit schemes are concocted? Taking latent effort out of the fishery might be considered but only with a control date from the past so as to avoid latent effort becoming real effort when the license holder is forced to choose. Latent effort is not a major problem and certainly will not take traps out of the water, but if handled poorly, could add traps to the water. The issuance of the 10% replacement trap tags with a fisherman's regular tags puts far more gear in the water, especially now as economic pressures increase. Many fishermen believe the trap limit is 880. Our own statistics show that the number of Class I, II, III license holders, which is where most of the industry's effort comes from, has declined by over 700 licenses, (12%) from 1997 to 2007. The department has never known how many of the tags purchased each year become traps fished, but with the recent "limited entry-by-tag-retired" rule, we should see a steady decrease in tags purchased right away. There are people who say the sky-is-falling with the catch being down by 40%, etc., etc. Settlement figures in the 90s predicted a potential down turn and it has happened, but where is the perspective and context? The catch last year was the 7th or 8th largest catch on record and in any year before 1999 it would have been considered fabulous by those same people. Living "high-on-the-hog" with ever increasing catches to support it was great, but the sky that has fallen since 1999 is the economic one each fisherman is dealing with today. Traps out of the water, but if handled poorly, could add traps to the water. The issuance of the 10% replacement trap tags with a fishermen's regular tags puts far more gear in the water, especially now as economic pressures increase. Many fishermen believe the trap limit is 880. Our own statistics show that the number of Class I, II, III license holders, which is where most of the industry's effort comes from, has declined by over 700 licenses, (12%), from 1997 to 2007. The department has never known how many of the tags purchased each year become traps fished, but with the recent "limited entry-by-tag retired" rule, we should see a steady decrease in tags purchased right away. There are people who say the sky-is-falling with the catch being down by 40%, etc., etc. Settlement figures in the 90's predicted a potential down turn and it has happened, but where is the perspective and context? The catch last year was the 7th or 8th largest catch on record and in any year before 1999 it would have been considered fabulous by those same people. Living "high-on-the hog" with ever increasing catches to support it was great, but the sky that has fallen since 1999 is the economic one each fisherman is dealing with today, exacerbated by any downturn in catch. The department

has acknowledged and the limited Mohegan studies have shown, that for true conservation of the resource to occur in the lobster fishery, trap cuts would have to be very drastic. (For the purposes of this discussion, "conservation" means that lobsters ordinarily taken during one season would not be taken until a future season.) Even if large numbers of traps were removed from the fishery, it would not necessarily mean a prosperous living. Just ask the guys like my father who fished in the 1960's and 70's with a big gang of 4,500 traps. For well over 60 years, the effort in the fishery was relatively low and so were the catches. In the last 10 years, effort has been high and the catch has been, historically speaking, more up than down. Scientifically, that does not make much sense and it also shows that there is much more to consider when managing the lobster resource than effort alone. Most agree that it is unrealistic to think that the high catches of the recent past will last forever, and certainly the catch will vary. Doesn't it therefore make justas much sense that the catch would fall back to a more realistic and perhaps more sustainable level? We have seen the results of practically everything that could benefit the growth of the lobster resource happen all at once. Things like the gauge and vent increase, significant predator decrease, (cod), habitat increase, (no urchins, lots of kelp), the v-notch, etc., all contributed to the large increases of lobster. Settlement rates have increased recently; so perhaps we have time to wait and see what happens 5 years down the road. Why would we enact additional effort management schemes that history and recent studies have shown have little, if any, of the conservation effect needed to increase the lobster population?
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The gauge increase, enacted statewide, and very controversial at the time, was done in the name of conservation when the economics of the fishery were much worse than today. It was difficult then to make a year-round living just lobstering. It is probably the single most important factor, (of the factors man has control over), why the fishery has expanded to today's level. Future generations have truly benefited from it. The increase in vent size was another controversial proposal that has had the same effect. It's been demonstrated time and again that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and waiting until a resource is in deep trouble before enacting conservation measures is a recipe of disaster, both for the resource and the fisherman depending on it. Ask any urchin or ground fisherman. It is understandable that lobstermen are uneasy about falling catches, given the additional higher costs of doing business. If settlement remained low and the catch continued to decline sharply there would be good reason for concern, but for anyone who fished before 1999, the fishery should still look pretty good, even though the economics aren't. The troubles of the fishery like over-capitalization, the price of petroleum-based products, bait supply, markets, and the general economic downturn are not factors the DMR or your council can do much about and perhaps the better businessman will survive in this fishery. To me, the only real benefit your council or the DMR can provide is to take steps to take care of the lobster resources that will take care of the fisherman. So why don't we concentrate on perpetuating a healthy and large population of lobster along the coast through wise management of the resource, (lobster), versus management of fisherman, (effort). How about a small gauge or vent increase or maybe a small decrease in the oversize measure. Please seriously consider what it is you want to manage.

899	To reduce effort, focus on who's putting in all the effort, vessel size, and horsepower. Only one license, either state or federal, not both. Pick your poison, inshore or offshore? The industry is going down hill fast and by decreasing the number of traps, it would allow the industry to come back a little more.
900	Support 2 traps trawls Bays Rivers
901	We need a trap limit of 600.
902	Next year, stop issuing recreational licenses. They don't support the industry at all. Count them! Most of them keep everything they catch and use anything for bait. Many fish more than 5 traps. I repeat, count them! To keep the fishery in the fishing family, a retiring (70+) lobstermen's family should be able to acquire his license.
903	Lower the limit, one boat with 600 traps, no stern men with boat and traps. One boat per captain. Reduce fuel prices, bait prices, cost of upkeep and supplies, along with the whale mess. Get some input from the people who are on the water, excluding whale watchers and hippies, see it from the other peoples point of view, trying to make a living from the ocean without the rules and money coming from people who don't know the real deal.
904	I feel that the process of saving the Atlantic Large Whale has gone too far. Making the lobster business difficult to maintain a living. I also feel the neutral whale line should be outside the 3 mile line. The rare sighting of one inside is not enough to warrant the lively hood of so many fishermen.

- 905 The marine patrol needs to be out enforcing the law. The people controlling this business are the people with the sharpest knives and the smallest brains. The honest people or latent effort people are the ones who have to stop, regroup, and save money to get back into it. We need to enforce the law, maybe even get more strict. There needs to be a warden for every district and he needs to be there daily making a presence, stopping boats investigating complaints. Why punish people who can't afford to buy \$300,000 boats? Why punish people who have had their traps cut off by greedy fishermen that don't want competition? New fishermen have to come in, if not, there will be nobody to buy used gear and boats. We are headed down a road to destroy lobstering in Maine. Imagine if lobstering was destroyed. What would that do to the economy and tourism? Please listen to reason. I'm saying and speaking for the lobstermen who don't dare to speak up because of fear and retaliation on the water.
- 906 I think the trap limit should be 600. With 800, all the fishermen are doing is saturating the ocean floor. Too many.
- 907 I do not feel that the veteran lobstermen that have already been affected by a trap reduction should be subject to another trap reduction. The people that should be affected are the people who changed zones, new entries, people who have other jobs and lobstering is not 90% or more of their livelihood.
- 908 I think there are natural cycles in all fisheries. There is going to be good years and bad ones as well. I am hesitant to get into trap reduction, with the price and supply of bait, it is probably going to happen though. Why not have a closed season in state waters to conserve bait? I do not support letting more people into the fishery or giving out more tags.
- 909 Your numbers from a survey like this are inaccurate. Get a better understanding on what is actually going on here, and then you can consider a trap reduction.
- 910 Leave it the way it was. It's working just fine.
- 911 My concern is the right whale subject. I spent 26 years in the Coast Guard with over half of it north of Cape Cod. I never saw a right whale. I saw many others but no right whales. Myself and a lot of other fishermen have a suspicion that this is an issue that is going to slowly and methodically regulate us out of the lobster industry. There are no right whale problems within the 3 mile limit on the Maine coast. If so, produce the evidence.
- 912 A trap limit of 600 would catch as many lobsters with 25% less effort. In return, reduces expenses (bait, fuel, etc).
- 913 Yes, it depends on how it is done.
No, there is no fair way to do it other than across the board cuts. If you have a license, you should be able to use it as you see fit. Do not create tiered licenses. Why not implement the new tag exit ration program and allow it to work. Is it just greed on the part of the big guys or a concern for stock levels prompting this survey. If it is a stock level concern, then we need to look at who is doing the most harm to the resource by over harvesting. The license exit ratio process is working, with the exception of the student licenses coming into the fishery unabated. This loop hole should have closed when the apprentice program was started, but there was no political will to do the right thing. How is DMR going to tell someone that has been on a zone waiting list for 5 years and an apprentice for 3 years prior to that he/she can only get a 400 trap license? Meanwhile, a student who started on the same day eight years prior has already been fishing for 5 years, is up to 700 traps and headed for 800. Yes, reduce the current limit to 500 traps statewide over 4 years:
- | Limit | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 600 | 575 | 550 | 525 | 500 |
| 800 | 725 | 650 | 575 | 500 |
- No, but make one waiting list for students and apprentices and apply the new tag exit ratio to everyone no matter which program was completed to get on the zone waiting list. Shutting down the apprentice program, eliminating the apprentice waiting list, and eliminating the student license is not likely to happen and shouldn't. No, this was done in the 1996 license year and failed. The capital intensive nature of lobstering keeps most latent effort out. Our co-op is largely old guys who will be retiring or cutting back over the next 10 years. We have no or very few apprentices and students coming along in our area. We may need some of the latent effort to keep our co-op viable and to prevent its sale for other uses. Less than 10% of our co-op is full time and most members would be considered to have some level of latent effort.
- 914 The lobster industry is being f***** up by all the rules on the little guy and not on the big guys. We should have to chose inside the 3 mile line or out, not both. If the big guys had to fish outside, us little guys could make a living. More little guys catching less lobster adds up to be more money distributed across more families, than just in the pockets of a few boats. We are all stuck in the lobster business because we have to make bill money and the state forced us into the fishery.
- 915 There needs to be further reduction (10% - 20%) in the number of active licenses before a lower trap limit is even considered. Then, I would support 650 (no 10% replacement) trap limit, but only if all new licenses into the fisher were frozen. Licenses could be then made transferable and saleable, like Federal Permits and Canadian Lobster License.

916	There are too many part time lobstermen. Rich people, like lawyers, that play lobstermen on the weekends really clog up the bay. It's getting too expensive to lobster. Fuel and bait prices have quadrupled in the last 10 years. The switch to float rope is another kick in the a**. The state is doing a very poor job protecting us.
917	I believe that any trap limit reduction should be uniformly implemented across all zones and fishermen state wide, i.e. 800 limit for all to 600 for all. Latent effort is the best place to start.
918	The bigger fishermen in zone D don't want the 600 trap limit. But now it is way over fished, especially in the Friendship area. If it isn't lowered, it will be over for lobstering in that area. That's a fact.
919	Licenses should be able to be passed on to family, rather than make a younger member of a family go through hoops to get a license
920	I hold a commercial class 1 license but don't fish commercially yet (I may in retirement). So I'm not a good gauge of how the fishery should be managed. I just know that in the Penobscot Bay/Ft. Point/Morse Cove are, the fishing has dropped off and the crawl starts later and later every year.
921	You send me too much junk mail, such as this! Stop selling my name and address to commercial enterprises!
922	I just believe there should be a 600 trap limit instead of a 800 trap limit which is in my zone. Also the price of bait and fuel is making it so that a lot of fishermen can't even afford to buy fuel or bait to set their traps at the beginning of each year.
923	Why are trap tags so expensive and what are you spending the money on?
924	Get rid of the 5 trap non-commercial and let the boys have the bay back for themselves.
925	We do not need another trap limit. Lobstering is up and down. You'll have good years and bad years, that's always how its been.
926	Students belong on the 5 out to 1 in.
927	I feel we don't need to adjust tags, if we lower it there will be more traps getting hauled by more people trying to get bills paid. As far as cost of bait or whale plan, the industry and its costs will eliminate or alter how many traps people fish or if they fish at all. I think it's not correct to take an inactive license because it doesn't mean they'll never use it again if they have maybe there is other reasons why it's not being used, health, and would like to take some time off.
928	My main concern is the amount of traps, bait, and people that the fishery needs to survive. How long can we sustain this way of life without more restrictions.
929	Whether or not there is a decrease in the lobster industry, everyone in the state of Maine has a right to this resource. Look at Monhegan, it proves that reducing traps will end up better fishing, better non-entanglement with whales, and less expense in fuel, bait, and time.
930	Look at Monhegan's results! Eliminate "cash buyers", so we know our real production number, from state waters.
931	Reducing traps may reduce "feed" for the lobsters we are "farming". May not increase the number of lobsters. Need good research.
932	I fish in zone E, and we only are allowed 600 traps. Everyone else has 800. We should be allowed the same.
933	I support these changes but there must be a drastic price increase as well in order to sustain the fishing communities that rest on this resource.
934	Zone A is being over fished, too many traps. The rope needed for right whales inside the 3 mile line is nonsense. There's no need for it. I don't believe anyone has enough money to buy all the new gear needed for these foolish rules.
935	If you want to reduce traps, give out just the 800 or the 600 for each zone not 880 or 650. People can get the extra tags in fall. The will be a 10% reduction.
936	Fishing has declined in recent years. I have no choice on the expenses of fishing. I can only hope it gets better. What choice do I have. 600 tags should be enough for any boat but don't reduce the number of tags for fishermen who haven't gotten to the 800 tag limit. Not happy with whale laws because it is unlikely they are in Penobscot Bay. Hope we all survive.
937	Licenses need to be reduced, a season should also be considered. Too much effort! Someone will not like what happens, but established fishermen supporting families should be the first concern. New entries will have a better future if they wait. Also, licenses should be owned and a state fee still charged.
938	I have lobstered for 60 years. The trap limit has helped, but no matter what, the cycle of lobsters goes up and down in about 20 - 25 year cycles. It's way down now.
939	I think the fishermen that fish just a few of the best months and then go to another career for the rest of the year should choose lobstering or the other, not both. No cream skimmers!

940	I believe that fishermen are going to have a hard enough time paying for bait and fuel, that is constantly going up, without cutting the trap limit. I've been fishing for 14 years and I think that the ALWTRP is extremely overreacted. I've never seen a right whale swimming freely or caught in a line. First, it was the break aways, now it's the rope. I'm assuming that they are trying to lower the trap limit so there will be less rope in the water. Before we go too far, I think we have to look at the big picture. Some people could not make a good enough living fishing less traps with the cost of living rising. Less traps means less lobsters, which is why most of the tourists visit Maine. With less lobsters, the price will rise higher than what most people are willing to pay. I think that there will be more consequences that you think. I just hope that we don't go too far. What's going to be next?
941	Fishermen and working apprentices on the waiting list should be able to enter the fishery. I think 5:1 is too large a ratio. Freezing entry of all new licenses so not fair at apprentices who have worked hard to earn the privilege to fish. Eliminating latent effort would give you a more accurate picture of effort (overall) and give advocates of a new license freeze a new perspective. You enter under a law, paying your dues. Personally, I feel like the 4 years I put in as an apprentice may be erased and my lifelong goal of lobstering may be jeopardized. Be fair, uphold your laws.
942	A trap limit with a license freeze is not fair.
943	I think we need to concentrate on fixing the problems we already have before we tackle any new concerns. The ALWTRP has really thrown a monkey wrench into things, if you will. The rope we use now works fine but switching to sink, which by the way you may already know does not work! This is my main concern.
944	I would personally pursue # 8, 9, and 10 on this questionnaire and I think that you might see a dramatic change.
945	Let us sell our license when not using them anymore.
946	I think the lobster resource has gone down in the last couple of years, but there are more traps in the water where you fish. It makes it like the lobsters are dropping. Anyone could tell you that. I think there should be a trap limit. How are all the young fishermen going to make it if you close the fishing to them? I was young once and always wanted to fish since the age of 5. This is what I do and I love it. So I think that the young people should be able to go out and enjoy it too.
947	I have never seen a right whale. Lower trap limits make no sense if everyone can get a license.
948	I support getting rid of 5 trap licenses because these people do not depend on the industry to survive, and the number of 5 trap licenses is considerable. I also support reducing the amount of traps that a part timer can fish. I don't necessarily think reducing the amount of tags for full time lobstermen is the answer.
949	I don't think we should limit this resource to just a few people.
950	I've fished for 25 years. Landings go up, they go down. A reduction in traps is not the answer. People that know how to fish their gear will still catch plenty. A further limit on traps will be a hardship on everybody. You won't have the numbers needed to make the money. Let the current limit work. It's only been a few years.
951	Do away with recreational licenses and don't sell 10% tags when you sell 800. Fishing 880 is what they will do.
952	I believe the entry/exit ratio program in place should be given a chance to work. Also, latent licenses should not count in this program. I am in favor of entry/exit ratio on tags but should be done more aggressively. Number of fishermen should be limited, not number of traps. Trap reduction will happen with fishermen reduction.
953	Due to my age, I do not intend to fish outside of the exclusion zone.
954	Lobster stocks (juvenile seeders, etc.) are extremely healthy. We see it every day inshore as well as offshore. ALWTRP is succeeding much more in the devastation of our livelihood more than the safety of whales. When I say livelihood, I'm not just talking about the fishery. How will we be able to take care of our families? Absolutely eliminate the "part time" fishermen before you take away from us year round. 100% of my family's income comes from lobstering, good or bad!
955	Boats that normally fish deeper waters are crowding into shallows in the spring. They are also fishing pairs in less than 3 fathoms of water to make it more difficult for single trap fishermen to fish traditional spring areas. I also believe that boats that fish inside the 3 mile limit, should be limited to one stern man.
956	Just close the zone already. Keep it at 800 and close the d*** zone.
957	Attrition would be the method I would use to reduce effort. Note: Tags that are not fished are a good thing!
958	I feel that trap reduction should be taken from those fishermen that do not fish year round. Those who make a noticeable income from another occupation should fish less traps than those who depend on lobstering as their complete income. Also, supporting ALWTRP without research proving it works is ridiculous and a large treat to us fishing outside the exemption area. It's a bad idea.
959	I think if you are going to cut traps, you should start by doing away with 5 trap recreational licenses. You should not let people buy the 10% (80 trap tags) when they buy the 800 because people fish all 880 traps.

960	I believe we need to eliminate the licenses not used when the new licenses are being issued. Maybe there are less licenses now, but there are actually more tags in the water.
961	I think we need to stop worrying about whales. I've never even seen one. I think we need to stop giving out licenses. Let those with licenses finish off, then go from there.
962	No, it wouldn't be fair
963	Hold on to the 10% replacement tags. There is your reduction in effort!
964	I think we should take a strong look at Matinicus and take what they have learned to teach us. With the prices of fuel, bait and gear going up, I believe a reduction would help greatly. I also think there should only be one license per boat, not two commercial on one boat then the next day switching boats to haul more gear.
965	We need to get rid of the licenses that are not being used. There are a lot of people that have them, but are not using them.
966	The lobstering was good. The price of bait and fuel is what's going to kill us. Maybe we could get by fishing 600. The new rope and price of fuel is problem enough.
967	Lobstermen are notorious at saying the fishing is bad when it's really very good. We cry poverty yet we drive \$50,000 truck and \$200,000 boats. Think about it.
968	Stop handing out the 10% replacement tags. Everyone is over the limit. Enforce existing limit.
969	Enforce existing trap limit! There is your reduction in effort.
970	Yes, in recent years the resource has declined a little, but it's no big deal. Nature works in cycles. The lobster resource has always worked in cycles.
971	I would like to see buy-outs. The feds gave 2 million dollars for rope buy back, why not license buy back? 2 million divided by \$100,000 would be 160,000 traps tags and 20 licenses. I think there are a lot of fishermen that continue fishing because of investment and would jump on buy-out (small seasonal fishermen).
972	You need to make everyone freeze at where they're at. We've already taken our share of cuts. We use to fish 2,400 traps - cut us back to 800.
973	What we truly need is less biologists. They should get a real job and stop making their living from the resource and the backs of real workers! They are a hindrance and drag on the fishermen with little to no return for their huge pay.
974	My husband has already been cut back by 50%, enough is enough. Either target fishermen that were allowed to increase, or enforce the trap limit that we already have. Stop issuing the 80% replacement tags and your reduction in effort will be reduced by almost 10%.
975	The resource is healthy based on what we are seeing this spring. The last 2 - 3 years we've had spring storms that effected the fishing that, I feel, hurt us for the rest of the year (water temperature, salinity, etc). The whale plan is first and foremost in my mind. How far restrictions will go will tell the future of a very successful fishery. If they go to far, the no one will be able to fish with some of the absurd rules that are proposed. Maine has to take away the latent licenses because these are hurting guys that are making a full time living. Just having them on the books affects potential trap reductions and it affects guys (students) trying to get into the fishery. The students/kids are the future and we have to have the ability to keep them in the fishery, not being stuck on a waiting list. I am opposed to a new trap limit until tags are frozen and a 2 tier license system is used, a full time license and a part time license. Base it on your Schedule C. Just in my harbor, there are 45 licenses; 14 aren't used and 15+ are guys that fish 250 traps or fewer. That means 16 full time guys that fish from 500-800 traps will have their vote mean nothing in the harbor in regards to going (bait, lobster dealers, trap companies) will have part time guys saying what the future trap limits are, not affecting themselves, but fishermen making a full time living. If reductions happen, everybody has to be frozen, then a percentage taken out from there, but a control date of the previous year should be used, not this year as everybody is seeing the handwriting on the wall that trap limits have raised their ugly heads again. It didn't work before and I doubt it will work again. Nature has a way of weeding people (fishermen) out. Another bad year in other places might solve the issue for you.
976	The state should have a buy out like the one for the ground fishery. Fear of freezing the number of traps has made people buy the limit in a kind of state sanctioned extortion. It would be totally f***** unfair to take licenses not in use when people have been paying for that license for in some cases, years. This fear of the DMR taking or freezing unused licenses has totally skewed the number high. If you want true and useful information about what and where is fished, don't use that information to take things away.
977	Give the exit/entrance ratio time to work. We are not going to run out of lobster. People are only going to get older.

978	I am disappointed in the state creating a limited access fishery. The lobsters do not belong to lobster license holders, they are a public resource and should be accessible to the public. The apprentice program is just a way to keep new entrants at the mercy of greedy fishermen. I believe a trap limit per zone may be an option and allow the lease of unused tags at least. Then someone like me could fish a few hundred traps if I could afford the tags. Now I'm stuck on the outside clawing my way in.
979	I also think student license is a good idea, but what about me, I have a full time job. I have apprenticed for 3 years and I still don't have a license, how is this fair? Some 18 year old kid can fish 150 traps with no fishing experience but I cant even fish 6 traps at 31 years old? I am invested in the fishery. My grandfather and father held lobster licenses yet because there was no student license in 1994 when I graduated from high school, I am struggling to get hours and days with greedy, unethical fishermen being rewarded like its their God given right. This is still America, right? The lobsters belong to the state. I am a law abiding citizen of Maine who wants an opportunity to carry on my family's tradition, but I cant apprentice under myself with 150 traps, but my 18 year old neighbor can?
980	Allowing the Zone F fishermen 8 - 12 miles of fishing along the Zone G coast is not effort or trap reduction. I feel this is going backwards!
981	Random drug testing. State regulates waters inside 3 mile line not feds. This keeps the whale issue controlled by the state. Identify and close the loopholes.
982	Why does the DMR want lobstermen to down size when the state sells recreational licenses, which lessens our industry?
983	Don't take or gear out of the water. The price of bait and fuel is ridiculous and we have to make money somehow. It's a growing and falling business. Let it be.
984	We can only fish 600 traps now in Zone E.
985	I think if you reduce the trap limit in state waters, federal permit holders should be able to keep 800 traps, but only those with a Federal Permit 1A.
986	The high prices of bait and fuel and the low prices of lobsters during the months that lobsters are being caught is going to impact me to either not fish as much or taking the boat and the traps out of the water and not fishing at all or selling the business when I start going backwards in profit.
987	I think instead of bringing more fisherman into the industry are reducing gear. You should keep a stable amount that can make a good living. With 800 traps, people have the ability to have longer sets and use less bait and fuel. We are farming the lobsters now, so less gear is not going to help the fishery. I think you should make cowhide not legal to use.
988	Now lobsters have bait to eat and we throw back shorts and females is a good working system. Cowhide does not give back to the ocean like bait does. Also, offshore harvesting of the big reproducing lobster is not good. Before lowering trap limits, I would stop new licenses and allow fisherman to sell licenses and tags.
989	With the price of living cost and everything else going up, we cannot afford to lose any trap tags.
990	I think 800 traps is barely enough to make a living on and those who are still building their pile should be able to. Also, I have kids and if they want to fish, I believe they should have a chance.
991	I feel left alone, it will take care of itself. I feel new fishermen should be given an easier chance to get a license.
992	I believe that the lobstering effort in the state of Maine is not in need of any new rules or regulations at this time or in the near future. With prices of fuel, bait, and other supplies hitting an all time high, I think many fishermen who don't enjoy lobstering as much as they used to, will start to exit the fishery on their own in search of a different career. Unfortunately, if lobster trap limits are tampered with right now, it will lead to more acts of piracy out on the water. Although I am aware that no matter what I answer on this survey or what any other fishermen's answers are, it will not make a difference in the minds of those who are in control of putting new bills into laws. Those in control most likely have already decided to cut trap limits state wide and only sent this survey out of legality rights. That way, it can be said that the fishermen were given a chance to voice their opinion and this is what they decided. So in conclusion, my advice would be to just let the fishery balance itself out without enacting anything new in the way of rules for a few years. Let the ones in place take full effect for a long cycle before trying something new.
993	The ALWTRP is one step closer to elimination of the entire lobster fishing industry. We need more wardens in service willing and able to enforce laws pertaining to our industry already in place.
994	I think (illegible) pairs should be fished to reduce the vertical line in the water. No singles.
995	The new float rope rules are putting more single gear in the water. Also, the new rules are driving more fishermen to fish closer in shore where they don't usually fish, driving out the fishermen who have always fished inshore. Eliminating latent effort isn't fair to people who have paid for a license year after year, so they would be able to fish when they retire from other work.
996	Recreational and student licenses need more scrutiny and I feel if a license holder makes more than 50% of their income from any fishery, they can have a license. I'm tired of a fuel guy, store owner, teacher, etc. fishing only in the best months for vacation money.

997	Eliminating dormant licenses, creating a moratorium on new licenses, and reducing the amount of traps in the Maine coastal waters are all the essential efforts to preserve this resource.
998	Enforce the laws that are already on the books.
999	Remember that every trap with bait feeds all the short/small lobsters for the future of our resource.
1000	Include student licenses with the apprenticeship licenses so they all count against the entry/exit ratio. This will quickly reduce the amount of fisherman-effort.
1001	I would be interested if there are programs that I as a commercial lobsterman can participate in to help sustain our resources in this fishery.
1002	I am sternman now, going to the college in the fall. When I graduate, I may go fishing and these laws would not allow me to do that.
1003	Leave the lobster industry alone. It will take care of itself. If fishing gets poor, people will leave the industry on their own. You don't have to put people out of business, the bottom line will do that.
1004	I think that you should keep the lobster trap number to 800.
1005	I think the prices of fuel and bait are the biggest obstacles right now. I think the lobster itself could be more efficiently marketed so the price of the product could attempt to keep up with the price of bait and fuel.
1006	Not just anyone should be able to get a license. Out-of-towners definitely should not be able to take our space in our town waters.
1007	Strongly support 600 trap limit in Zone G.
1008	I am 24 years old and have fished my whole life. For me to fix all my gear the way the government wants it, and with the prices of bait and fuel, makes it impossible for me to make an honest living. I do think the number of traps needs to be cut down, but just for people who have full time jobs or other incomes, but I don't think the full time fishermen should have less traps with this being their only income. Do away with the part time fishermen that have full time jobs and can have just as many traps as full time lobstermen. It's just not right, or fair.
1009	I think the business is over regulated. We can't do this whale safe s***, it's going to cost us thousands of dollars. When an older fishermen gets done, he should be able to sell his license to keep it going. The lobstering industry is fine. The numbers have dropped over the years, but that doesn't mean they have to try running us out of business between bait, fuel, rope, bags, buoys, tags, whale safes, traps, etc. We don't make s***. We make money in the long run, but not enough. We have to do away with all this whale safe s***. It's all f***** bulls***. We need to raise the price of lobsters now and forever!
1010	I feel that we should be able to hand down our lobster licenses to our children or grandchildren
1011	People in high places are trying to fix "problems" who have no clue as to what takes place in the lobster fishing industry have caused problems where there were none. Leave the industry alone please, you're only going to cause more problems. For those people who want a trap limit, let them limit themselves. Most of those people are older or retired or don't want to work hard! No limit and leave us alone!
1012	Too many laws, too many expenses. What happens to the smaller fishermen? Leave things alone.
1013	My zone has too many new licenses coming in. I feel new licenses should be required to stay in the zone and district they apprenticed in.
1014	Before a trap reduction, I support the following - closed zone, 5 to 1 entry limit, effort on latent licenses, laws in place to discourage fishing second boats (owner/operator)
1015	Should not penalize a fisherman that makes 100% income on lobstering. Show proof on tax returns.
1016	They have a trap limit, it put millions more traps in the water. Should have had a license limit than. If you really want to help the lobstering, put a bounty on peaks and (illegible). We use to shoot seals for mink farmers, most all had lobsters in them, some as high as 11. I have been lobstering for 61 years.
1017	A lot of medium or small fishermen buy 800 tags to have them in case of loss of year. Another note, people of this caliber do not intend on fishing 800 traps, at all. I know of 3000 traps that will never hit the water. This is a waste of fishermen's time and resource of money. Just because a bad year hits us doesn't mean that you should just jump on lowering tags and traps in the water. You should just sit back and study what the weather and other conditions govern, what is caught, just not thinking that we are over fishing. You people are just jumping too fast to say bad fishing means over fishing.
1018	I'm a kid in school fishing rummers, hoping to follow in the family business. What will I do if you freeze the licenses. My great, great grandfather lobstered. Stop giving out licenses to outer <u>staters</u> and farmers!!
1019	Reduce effort by eliminating use of 2 stern men. No Saturday and Sunday fishing during June - October. 4:00pm quitting time year round.
1020	Go back to <u>wooden</u> traps. That would take care of a lot of fishermen fishing big gangs. Wood traps are better for the environment and only real fisherman would be fishing! I am from the old school. I have seen what's best for our environment and our fishery.
1021	Stern man with my dad and this is how it effects him.

- 1022 I would believe that the current trap level in our zone is efficient for the lobster fishery. Trap reduction would hurt my overall business. We have had the lowest number of traps since the reduction. It seems only fair to reduce other zones before reducing statewide totals.
- 1023 If people have other jobs other than fishing, they do not need the same percentage of traps as the full time fishermen.
- 1024 Drop to 500 total traps. Keep everything else the same.
- 1025 If you take our 800 tags away, down to 600, you cannot make a living. This young guy will not survive!
- 1026 I am extremely concerned about float rope/whales. I fish a lot of hard bottom where sink rope trailers won't work. I fish 7 fathom trailers inside the 3 mile line in Port Clyde and can't see how these would ever bother a whale. Instead of a trap limit, I would like to see a true limited entry where students and apprentices were counted 5 out/1 in.
- 1027 If you reduce trap proportionally, the people in their prime will always have an advantage over other people (young and old). An across the board limit is the only fair way. If a 20 year old lobsterman is always limited to 250 traps, while a 40 years old lobsterman is limited to 700, that 20 year old will never make a living lobstering. People 30 - 40 years old are going to be 60 someday and the young should be allowed to take their place.
- 1028 Just because we have had a decrease in lobster catch does not mean we are in a downward spiral. The price of fuel will change how many lobstermen continue in this industry more than any regulation from DMR. Let's not panic.
- 1029 I think that all the apprentices should be able to set 50 - 75 traps. We are paying \$114, and for what?
- 1030 As my zone, Zone C is currently open. I cannot see putting a lower trap limit in place and continue to let more part time fishermen into the zone. By cutting the tags, but letting more people into the fishery, you're just dividing up the pie into smaller slices. This would be cutting the throats of the full time lobster that don't have another job to fall back on.
- 1031 I think it's time for a moratorium on any new legislation, and interference from the political left, and the attempts to pit lobstermen against each other with questions like #4 though #10. Leave lobstermen alone and let them fish. Just stay in Augusta and the lobstermen will tell you when changes are needed.
- 1032 You are just trying to make it harder and harder to be a lobsterman with all of these rules. For some people, this is all they have and it is the thing they love more than anything in the world. Keeping people on the waiting list is ridiculous and making it harder for kids to get their licenses is just plain wrong. And all the support you've getting from lobstermen who agree with what you're doing are obviously just selfish people who don't care because they already have a license, so they themselves have nothing to worry about.
- 1033 All student fisherman should be given their license even if they are over 18 years old.
- 1034 Buy licenses from lobstermen
- 1035 Is this state wide or zones?
- 1036 I think that the whale solutions that the NMFS has put into place are very unnecessary and useless. The lobster industry wastes million every year due to these laws. Also, the trap limit should not be reduced anymore at all. This would cause many lobstermen to quit and find a different profession.
- 1037 If you could eliminate tags not "actually in water" you would see a big trap decrease. I also feel if you drop traps by a percentage some of the newer fishermen will not be able to survive, i.e. people fishing 600 traps reduced by same percentage as someone fishing 800 traps.
- 1038 It is extremely difficult to determine if the lobster resource is stable. Each year is so different from the last. I do think that the fishing along the inner bays and harbors is decreasing. Lobstermen are heading out to federal waters sooner and staying longer now. Seems to be more in deeper water, probably because it isn't fished as heavily. The Lack of mature lobsters inside the line is noticeable, though. Hope this is the year it proves my thoughts wrong.
- 1039 Leave trap limit the same.
- 1040 With the high cost of fuel and bait, I think a lower trap limit would result in the same amount of lobster catch with less overhead, resulting in more profit. It would only work if everyone was fishing less gear.
- 1041 Our offshore stocks are declining rapidly, just too much gear.
- 1042 Please get rid of the recreational licenses. They are hurting us terribly. They don't care, they take anything they catch. I've watched them with binoculars. Everyone in Friendship, they don't measure. I've never seen them throw anything back. I've reported them but they still have their traps. This is my livelihood, this is not theirs. They can buy lobsters. They don't care about the sustainable product, it is not their paycheck. It is not their mortgage. What do they have to lose. In the areas where they are, which is all over, the V - notch smaller lobsters are gone!
- 1043 I feel a great way to reduce traps is not cutting the trap limit but have 10 lobstermen retire their licenses before allowing a lobsterman to get his license. This is a great way to reduce gear.

1044	I feel that people who are retired and have other jobs shouldn't be fishing the same amount as those who are fishing for their living. And another thing, these outer starters coming here and getting recreational licenses shouldn't be aloud because if they are catching our lobsters, than that means they are not buying .
1045	Keep it up you f***** idiots. Maybe we'll all be homeless if you try hard enough. Let us fish!
1046	I'm on the apprentice list currently and want to go lobstering as soon as I get my license. This job is the only thing I know. Please don't take that away from me. I need my own license so I can support my family.
1047	I believe all big boats who have a license to fish outside the 3 mile limit should not be able to fish inside if it's a small harbor, as they cut too many traps off.
1048	Discontinue recreational licenses. It adds stress to the resource, the fishermen and the local businesses. Many of the recreational license holders are selling their lobsters. Increase student and apprentice requirements, many are not actually doing the time, but their buddies are signing them off any way. I find it quite sad that I had to show a 13 year old how to correctly measure a lobster and it was his second year holding a commercial license! I support minimum age limits for commercial license holders, as well as the students being placed on the waiting list. The number of replacement tags should be decreased markedly. Zone D is eligible for 80 tags. I suspect many of the fishermen are using those tags to fish 880 traps. That potentially increases the number of traps fished in each area substantially.
1049	Different zones require different rules. Zone A needs to change its exit/entry ratio 5:1. All new entrants should have a reduced amount of tags and have a limit of 660. Anyone that doesn't show proof of selling lobsters shouldn't have a license.
1050	Freeze tags now.
1051	Lobstering has always been survival of the fittest. If you can't make due, get the h*** out of the business. Shouldn't have so many stupid laws, maybe focus on getting tags and licenses back before fishermen set gear. Don't worry about the whales, worry about the big rigs running them over.
1052	No new licenses until the catch responds (25% increase in landings) to conservation effort. All zones should only fish 300 traps per licenses. Shorten the season: May 15th to December 15th.
1053	Cut back on the amount of gear in Zone E.
1054	I have a student license and work with my dad. He says the lobsters run in cycle, like everything else. They will be back again, he has seen it.
1055	I am 12 years old with my own lobster boat I bought because I would have had my lobster license by now, if the law wasn't changed to 17 years old. I was so close once and I would hate to see the law change again and not be able to obtain one after my hard work.
1056	The only thing I see wrong is when you put the trap limit on people who fished 400 - 600 traps, either bought enough to make 800 traps or bought tags saying that they have that many anyway. So, I don't think that. There is the number of traps in the water. That, there, is the tags bought each year.
1057	Although the maximum number of traps was reduced a few years ago, nothing stopped those with less than the new limit from increasing.
1058	I think that the season should not just be all year but have a limit of days that you can fish, like in Canada. I also think that if people with big boats and huge engines are going to go way offshore and catch way more lobsters than people with little boats, than the people with big boats and more horse power should have to pay more money for a lobster license.
1059	The brunt of limiting effort should not be taken out on the young and the old. The people that have the greatest effort (harvest most) should be the ones that have their "effort limited" because they are the ones that create the most mortality. If you are serious about limiting effort, than you won't get any results limiting the people who harvest the least (they are not catching anything anyway.)
1060	I support the procedure of increasing by 100 for each year until they reach 800.
1061	The exemption line should be in federal waters only. No right whales have been seen or heard of in the area I fish.
1062	I don't see any reason to remove float rope in this zone. In 15 years the only dead whale I've seen was 1 that had been hit by a ship. Another problem that needs to be stopped is all of the people that have there commercial licenses but only fish a hand full of traps for something to do or to keep their license.
1063	Everyone should have less traps and smaller boats to deal with increasing fuel prices and to deal with all the regulations. Anymore regulations and there won't be anymore lobstermen!
1064	Removing tags and licenses not being used would make everyone actually see how many traps are in the water, instead of just guessing. Also not being able to use float rope especially inside the 3 mile line is a joke. How many actual whales are spotted here and , how many have ever been caught in the rope? My guess, not many, if any at all.
1065	We need to make sure that all student licenses need not to be shut out of the fishery when they qualify for commercial status. We are the future of the fishery. I want to be a lobsterman, like my father, and not have it taken away from me.

1066	I wish I could do what my dad and my grandfather use to be able to do and that is fish as many traps as I want to. I have been told of fishing as many as they want, and only for 500, but some fished 1,5000. Its just the fact of the matter as being able to fish as many as you would be able to fish.
1067	I feel that the trap limit should be reduced to 400 traps per person and boat. With fewer traps in the water, there will be more lobsters to crawl into fewer traps which will create bigger hauls in less traps. There should also be a 2 license program for each zone. One license to own a fishing boat and gear to lobster and another license for "stern people". After a veteran fisherman retires, a "stern person" can fill the slot with purchasing license.
1068	Think about lowering the trap limit to 600, it would really do some good.
1069	I greatly believe that lowering traps you're allowed to fish would greatly impact the income, especially with high fuel and bait prices and with lobster selling at such a low price. Doing so would affect a lot of fishermen and force them out of the business, which would be a wrongful move for the state of Maine to do. So, leave it be!
1070	I believe the new proposal to change the entry ratio to number of traps retired is unfair to all the hardworking, hopeful apprentices on the waiting list. For every 4,000 traps retired in my zone, 300 are given. As it stands now, I could wait 9 years before I have a full time license with 800 tags and this puts a new factor in an equation that can't even be estimated.
1071	I really support the idea to take licenses away from people that are not using them because there may be new people that would actually use the licenses.
1072	Lowering the trap limit would destroy the lobstermen's lives and income. If you reduce the traps the people that do average won't make enough to make it by.
1073	If entry is frozen for all licenses that means that all my hard work to get where I am would be a waste and would provide no future for young fishermen starting out.
1074	I may be only 12 years old, but I think we should reduce the amount of traps fished in a very small area.
1075	Let the students fish. You can't shut out the kids.
1076	If you reduce the number of traps, guys that fish as a full time job might not make enough money.
1077	How can we get away with not reducing traps? A little at a time would give fishermen a chance. Small boats, less fuel, fewer traps, less bait. Live a little lower in the ladder. We are heading there anyway.
1078	I am 15 years old and I think that anyone who wants to join the lobstering industry should have a chance. It's something that most people make a living on or they don't.
1079	I'm concerned about the enforceability of a reduced trap limit.
1080	I wouldn't support reducing traps unless the catch dropped severely or unless we really had to, but until then, no.
1081	What about federal offshore permits? The big boys catch all winter and chase them in come spring. Are they to be part of this? It's a real problem; bait, fuel, and all. What about closing the season January 1st to May 1st, like so many other fisheries?

Comments to Multiple Questions

1	(4 & 5) No new licenses. Don't take tags away from current license holders.
2	(4 & 5) We are already in a conservation trap reduction plan where every one has the same amount of tags reduced in our (illegible) Swan's Island conservation zone.
3	(4 & 5) The reason for answering somewhat on 4 and yes on 5 is guys from our adjacent zone fishing more and more in our zone. We cannot go across the zone line because they have a 600 trap limit and we are at 800. This is a making for an ugly situation. These are waters that never have traditionally fished. We need a gray area on the zone line.
4	(4 & 5) I worry about this because Zone C is open, however, all of the lobstermen who have been doing this for their whole life and as their only source of income, and everyone who applies gets in. Don't penalize people who need to lobster by proposing a trap limit, then let 200 more people in get the same number of traps.
5	(4 & 8) Somewhat. How do you think that its fair to drop the trap limit on a true fisherman that fishes 12 months a year? You should do away with the doctors, dentists, teachers, Bangor Hydro, CMP, Bath Iron Works, mill workers, etc. Before you limit a true commercial fisherman, get rid of the part timers and recreational fishermen. The short lobsters and eggars would make it back to the bottom of the ocean instead of on their tables.
6	(5 & 7) Yes, with a reduction in licenses.
7	(5, 6 & 7) Just enforce the current 800 trap limit and there will be less traps. Also, lobster catchers should only have one boat, not two boats and more traps.
8	(6 & 7) I would only support this if latent effort and entry were stopped.

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- 9 (6 & 7) These types of reductions are more lobster welfare. Could result in more effort or save effort. Cutting people is cutting effort. Today many who used to fish alone have 2 or 3 people on a boat if there are any lobsters. Number of federal permits have increased dramatically.
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- 10 (6 & 7) On questions 6 and 7, I do not feel if you are not fishing the limit now. Why punish us for being more conservative than those in question? Make it fair!!! Vote question seven, if not, it would be like a highway policeman giving a speeding ticket for those who are driving under the speed limit because they were driving slower yesterday.
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- 11 (6, 7 & 8) I think we should freeze the number of commercial tags at the fishermen's present amount. Also, anyone building up should be limited to 500 tags. Take away the extra 10% tags.
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- 12 (6, 7, 8 & 9) I think that all 5 trap licenses should be eliminated altogether for starters and then remove the part timers who have other jobs and do not need the extra income to survive. The part timers take lobsters in the good weather and get out of it when it gets cold. If that could be accomplished then you wouldn't have to worry so much about the number of traps in the water. Eliminating latent effort would only give licenses to new people there by putting more traps in the water. The trap limit was supposed to reduce effort but only hurt full time guys. The part timers built up and replaced the traps cut back by full timers.
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- 13 (6, 8, 9 & 10) It doesn't support younger fishermen, also removes any future access. I don't support any measure that is not fair to all that harvest lobster. We need to be careful not to favor any Maine fishermen over another. If there is a reduction, it has to be across the board, for every fisherman.
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- 14 (7 & 8) Are very tricky questions.
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- 15 (8 & 9) Yes, as long as it doesn't effect the students.
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- 16 (8 & 9) The same question. Could hurt new entry which could be better educated.
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